

# The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012



VOL. 32, NO. 4

## President's Corner from outgoing President Mark Johnson

**T**h has been a great trip! I've considered myself a naturalist, ecologist, and birdwatcher that has kept my eyes more skyward than elsewhere, but when the nomination and subsequent election came to lead our Society, I didn't really know what to expect. At the end of my service, I have found the experience very rewarding and fulfilling. There are many simply so many incredible people who gratefully make the extra effort to keep our Society going. It happens (and there are many more pieces to this than is apparent) because everyone pitches in and gets it done. Volunteers step up to the call, some simply come out of nowhere, and contribute ideas, time and effort to help us to do so much more than organize birdwatching trips. That our Society is engaged in supporting avian research, conservation, citizen science through the Atlas, bird counts, and other endeavors, and establishing sanctuaries that provide habitat and in some cases overnight accommodations is something we all can be proud of. Of course I am only scratching the surface on the many things we do on the state level, there are many more activities that occur in our 15 chapters that greatly add to the list.

Many key volunteers consider their service as serious as one may consider a career – they are trustworthy, dependable, and available, the latter attribute just as important as the others. There appears to be no pattern; people with busy careers and children are as active (or even more so) as some retirees. What drives our volunteers is the feeling of accomplishment and duty, and I am thankful that we all share this drive.

With this great core of people, there is still much more that needs to be done. We simply need to get more engaged in grass-roots conservation efforts. Kurt Schwarz and the Conservation Committee are doing an excellent job at scanning the nation and providing lobbying efforts; however, we need to save habitats here in Maryland before it is too late. As sprawl

increases, there will be fewer birds and places we can go to see them. Our local planning and zoning boards may be interested in our birdwatching data to help delineate prime areas that should be protected. We also need to reach out more to local nature centers, Earth Day fairs, libraries, public schools, and garden clubs to increase the awareness of birds in Maryland. Education to these other venues will help provide a greater appreciation of the environmental values and services we all benefit from, while also potentially attracting new members. Think about inviting a younger person to come on a trip or a talk and share what you appreciate with them. If everyone did this we would expand our membership exponentially!

Finally, I would like to thank the following individuals in particular for their help and guidance during my term: Janet Shields, Wayne Bell, David Webb, Ward Ebert, Paul Zucker, Maryanne Dolan, and especially, John Malcolm for his service, attention to detail, and dedication in the awards and pin contest and support for our conferences in these many years. He will surely be greatly missed.

## President's Corner Maureen F. Harvey



### Gratitude to My Exemplars

First of all, I wish to thank my mentors – many of them past MOS Presidents – who have inspired us all (and me in particular) to keep this organization moving forward by adept accomplishment of the duties that came before them. Some of my many personal exemplars have been Chandler Robbins, John Malcolm, Bob Ringler, Norman Saunders, Karen Morley, Paul Zucker, Janet Millenson, Marcia Balestri, Wayne Bell, and most recently Mark Johnson. It is humbling to be included in their ranks, and I hope my little feet will somehow manage to fill their shoes without too much tripping or stumbling!

### Members, Please Help!

Volunteers are the core of our non-profit organization. MOS's continuity depends on you. Please answer the call in a big, medium or small way by contacting me (410-795-3117 or [president@mdbirds.org](mailto:president@mdbirds.org)), any other MOS officer, or your local chapter. At the state level, there are vacancies on several standing committees, including some committee chairs. Many of the committee activities are handled via e-mail or phone

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call and require a couple hours of effort each month (e.g., investments) or a concentrated effort over a short period of time each year (e.g., Earthshare). Won't you consider taking on one of the following "big" roles?:

- Investment Committee Chair - review and discuss quarterly statements with existing committee members
- Earthshare Representative (conservation-related workplace giving campaign) - complete annual paperwork packet, attend fund raiser events to inform prospective donors about MOS
- Volunteer Coordinator - update MOS events needing volunteers in Earthshare data base, help MOS find volunteers
- Annual Conference Field Trip Coordinator - plan trips and solicit trip leaders
- Annual Conference Silent Auction and Raffle Coordinator - solicit and manage donations and sales
- Long-range Planning - lead discussions on MOS's future
- Development/Publicity - encourage membership growth

Medium volunteer efforts include preparing and presenting programs to chapters, submitting an article or book review for publication, or joining the next sanctuary work-day crew to help repair and clean up the grounds or buildings or prepare a meal for the other volunteers. In addition, there are a few continual medium roles that are open. Won't you consider taking on one of the following "medium" roles?:

- Nominations Committee, Western MD chapters' representative - help develop slate of officers prior to biannual elections
- Birds of North America Online Coordinator - solicit subscriptions and submit info to Cornell

- World Series of Birding Adult Team Coordinator - solicit team members and funds

Some smaller short-term efforts include leading a conference or chapter field trip, bringing refreshments to a meeting, or working the registration desk at the annual conference. Please find your niche and pitch in!

### Thanks to Norm Saunders A Birding Innovator

The Maryland Ornithological Society would like to extend its deepest thanks to Norm Saunders, who retired this summer from nearly 25 years of service to the Mid-Atlantic birding community as creator and moderator of bird reporting groups The Osprey's Nest and MDOsprey.

Norm was a true innovator in the use of technology to report bird sightings. Back in the days before personal computers, birders seeking noteworthy sightings could only turn to the pre-recorded Voice of the Naturalist phone service.

These labor-intensive recordings were life-lines for birders, but their once-a-week release and the challenge of scribbling down the information as fast as possible made them less than ideal as reporting systems.

Into the mix stepped Norm, with his burgeoning love of birding and of personal computers. He enjoyed fooling around with "the heavy iron of the big mainframes," and soon began learning about Bulletin Board Systems, or BBSs: programs that allowed users to login via a phone line to download information and communicate with one another.

Norm quickly sought to join his two passions, but at first had a very difficult time finding others among the small group of BBS users who were also birders. Norm was the only one – likely the first birder on the internet.

In 1987, Norm debuted the first bird-related bulletin board, called The

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*Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by Sep 20, 2012 for the November/December 2012 issue.*

*Illustrations pp. 1, 4 ©M. Suzanne Probst  
Photograph p. 8 ©Bill Murphy  
Bill Hubick p. 15  
L.A. Fuertes/B. Horsfall 1907 p. 13  
Bird of North America Online p. 12*

Osprey's Nest, or TON. Focusing on the DC area, TON eventually had more than 150 local users (non-local BBS use was limited by long-distance phone charges). It was a source for bird sightings, questions about equipment, checklists, Voice of the Naturalist transcripts, field trip schedules and other useful things.

In October 1997, The Osprey's Nest turned into MDOsprey, the forerunner of birding listservs now common around the globe and central to the modern birding experience.

Norm, with the help of his wife Fran, handled both the technical aspects of the list and the personal – dealing with sometimes quirky or finicky users – for years.

Though Norm is no longer at the helm of the Maryland listserv, his steady leadership will not be forgotten, and his impact on birding will continue to be felt. Thanks again, Norm, and good birding.

## YMOS NEWS

By GEORGE RADCLIFFE



### 2012 World Series of Birding

On May 12, nine Maryland youth supported by parents and coaches participated in the 29th World Series of Birding in Cape May, NJ. Two middle school teams and a high school team spent 3 days scouting Cape May County and then set out at 12 midnight on the Big Day for 21 hours of tracking down species. Despite a poor migration fall-out that day, the group excelled, with one middle school team identifying 156 species, a new Maryland youth record for the event. The group came from Baltimore, Harford, Charles, and Queen Anne's Counties.

### YMOS Backpacks

A backpack will be given out to each chapter again this year. The pack will contain a pair of Eagle Optics Triumph 8 x 42 binoculars, a field guide, and the yellow MOS publication, *Birds of Maryland*. Many of the chapters have devised their own method of awarding the pack. These include having youth submit a birding list for a period of time and keeping a birding journal with descriptions and drawings. Each chapter will be given a pack at the September Board Meeting.

### YMOS Website ([www.ymos.org](http://www.ymos.org))

The YMOS Website is designed for both young birders and any adults who work with youth. The site contains birding basics, data sources,

useful links, trip and program information, a how to use eBird section, World Series of Birding information, summer program information, and educator resources. This is a great site for anyone new to the world of birding.

### YMOS Summer Program

This past June a group of students and teachers from across the state met at Washington College for the third annual Maryland Birds and Habitats summer workshop. The group, representing 7 counties, learned how to collect and report data on eBird, use bird breeding atlas protocols, and set up a bird monitoring site. On the final day the group was treated to a bird banding activity at Chino Farms. The program will be repeated June 23-28, 2013, and both detailed program information and application are posted on the YMOS webpage (see also MOS Calendar, p. 21).

### YMOS Birding Trips and the World Series of Birding

YMOS runs trips during the year for interested youth. Each chapter offers trips that young people can participate in, but the YMOS trips provide an opportunity for youth from different chapters to meet and learn together. The trip dates are found on the YMOS webpage. The trips will also be used to identify and prepare youth teams for the 2013 World Series of Birding in Cape May.

Each chapter should actively search for young people in their areas with a particular interest in birds. Get them out on a trip with your chapter, direct them to the YMOS website, get them out on a YMOS trip, and direct them to George Radcliffe at [radclifg@gmail.com](mailto:radclifg@gmail.com) if they would be interested in participating on a World Series of Birding team.

This coming year we will once again field both middle and high school teams. Experience is not necessary; love of the natural world is.

### 2013 MOS Conference Pin Contest

Ellen Lawler, a member of the Tri-County Bird Club, has agreed to take over the task of running the Conference Pin Contest. A well-known artist among MOS members, Ellen has herself entered the pin contest. The kingbird pin for the 2004 Washington College, Chestertown, was her winning entry. We are grateful to Ellen for taking on this MOS job under such sad circumstances and allowing John's Pin Contest Alert deadline to be met.

#### Artists: Pin Contest Alert

What species will represent the 2013 Conference in Harford County? Perhaps a Yellow-throated, Kentucky, or Cerulean Warbler from Susquehanna State Park or a Bald Eagle from Conowingo Dam.

The deadline for the 2013 Pin Contest is January 17, 2013. The rules are simple: the bird must be appropriate for the conference site; it must contain the phrases "MOS" and "2013;" the artist must be a member of MOS; and entries must be in HARD COPY.

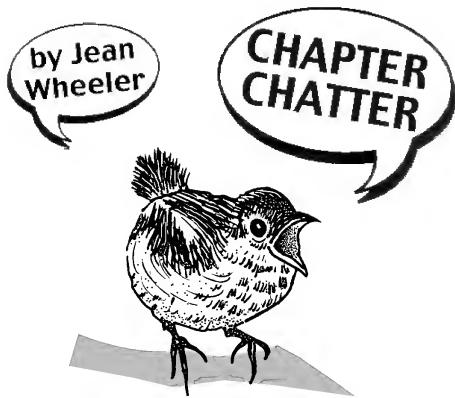
Put your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, chapter affiliation, and the species on the back of each entry. Send entries to Ellen Lawler, 412 Monticello Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801.

To see all the rules, and more tips about designing pins for the contest, visit the MOS web site or contact Ellen at 410-546-9056.

#### John Malcolm and the Conference Pin Contest

John was a very active member of MOS for many years, and one of his many contributions was the Conference Pin. John initiated the first Conference Pin Contest in 1987. Each year he sent out the call for entries; he established an elaborate system for judging the entries; and he arranged for the pins to be produced. John did this for twenty-five years. He will be very much missed.

Janet Shields



## ANNE ARUNDEL

For a couple of decades now, I've missed seeing the Townsend's Warbler by a few seconds and a tail feather. This has happened all over the country, in several states, in groups large and small. Everyone would get a great look at the bird and I missed it. It was driving me nuts! Townsend's were taunting me by appearing locally for a day, usually a week day, and disappearing by the time I could break away from work on a weekend. So, imagine my elation when I found out about a Townsend's that had made itself at home in a nearby Pennsylvania town! Due to various scheduling snafus I didn't get to make the trip for another couple of weeks. Pennsylvania birders are not the obsessive posters that Maryland birders are, so it was hard to find out if the bird was still in the area. Finally, I got in the car and headed for Mt. Holly Springs on a glorious Saturday morning. Got to the house and parked in the appropriate location. The hosts are also birders and had published a few simple rules for use of the yard. I stood on the landing to the deck in the back yard. There were more feeders, baths, and nest boxes than I could have imagined. Where to start! It was being seen at a feeder, but which one? I decided to do a systematic feeder by feeder search. Didn't take long to find the right feeder - the suet feeder with the Townsend's sitting on it! I had a great view in excellent light at eye level. Who could ask for more? Now, what's the next nemesis bird? *- Kathie Lambert*

The forecast for the Scottish Highlands was for days of cold rain, but the weather was much kinder for our trip of June 8-17. Organized by *Marilyn Taylor*, of the AABC and Nicol Mutch of Scotland, we began our tour at Kindrogan Field Center, a 19th century

manor near Pitlochry. For six days, led by two expert and entertaining Scots, our guide, Russell Nisbet (driving a 17-seater minibus) and Nicol we ventured from our base to moors, mountaintops, lochs, glens, burns (rivers), and nature centers to find 100 bird species, including Black Grouse, Ptarmigan, Dipper, Dotterel, Great Crested Grebe, Red Kite, Common Sandpiper, Ring Ouzel, Dunnock, and Chiff-Chaff. The last two days of our trip were spent in beautiful St. Andrews and environs, where our North Sea sightings included a 'Bonxie' (Scot-speak for Great Skua) and Gannet. We finished our trip with a cruise from Anstruther to the Isle of May, home of some 200,000 nesting seabirds, including Puffin, Guillemot, Razorbill, Eider, Arctic Tern, Kittiwake, Fulmar, Shag, and Rock Pipit. Participants included: AABC members *Marilyn Taylor*, Phyllis Mansfield of Cocoa Beach, FL, a friend of Marilyn's, *Barbara Ricciardi*, *Fred and Jane Fallon*, *Jean Wheeler*, (HBC), *Lloyd Lewis*, *Kim Hudyma*, *Peter Bungay*, *Bobbi Reichwein*, *Barbara Johnson*. We had 115 species by trip's end.

*-Barbara Johnson*

## CAROLINE COUNTY

Long time CC chapter member, *Ethel Engle*, celebrated her 89th birthday on July 2.

The CC bird Club mourns the passing of long time member *Oliver "Ollie" Smith* on June 6, 2012. Ollie held many local MOS offices over the decades and played an important role in the recovery of Caroline County's bluebird population. He and other Club members built bluebird boxes for years and sold them at his Ford dealership, along with Purple Martin boxes.

*-Debby Bennett*



**Ollie Smith**

## HARFORD COUNTY

### 2011 Annual Awards Presented

At the March 2 dinner meeting, the club continued the tradition of recognizing members and friends who have made a special contribution to our organization during the past year. We wish to thank *John Malcolm* of the Montgomery MOS chapter for his beautiful certificates that he creates each year for each awardee.

The first award was **Birder of the Year**, presented to *Becky Gallo* for her initiative in creating and leading our first "youth wing" of the club. The group has labeled themselves the "Harford Herons" and has focused on secondary students but will begin encouraging upper elementary students as well. Becky has linked with the MOS Youth program and sponsors field trips for youth and regularly communicates with and among her troops. Congratulations Becky!

The next award was **Volunteer of the Year**, presented to *Phil Powers* for his many hours given on behalf of birds, birding and birders. Phil has been a longtime volunteer at Harford Glen, helping with the banding demonstration on a weekly basis for the fifth grade residential program. He has served on the Anita Leight Estuary Center board and leads many birding field trips and boat trips for the general public. As a Harford Bird Club field trip committee member, he originated a field trip at Mariner Point Park in Joppatowne designed for physically handicapped and wheelchair bound participants. For several years he has presented a program to the public through the sponsorship of The Mill of Bel Air about backyard bird feeding. For all these generous gifts of time and talent, we congratulate you Phil!

Our **Rookie of the Year** was presented to *Callum MacLellan-O'Brien* of Abingdon. Callum is a fourteen-year old enthusiastic member of the Harford Herons and the State MOS Youth program. Last year he was a participant in the MOS Youth team that competed in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey. He will also represent Harford again this year in the competition. We look forward to many exciting years of enjoying our birdlife

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and environment as he matures in his skills and abilities as a birder. Best wishes Callum and congratulations!

Our **Lister of the Year** was awarded to our Vice-President *Matt Hafner* for seeing 224 species in Harford County during 2011. Matt is one of the state's most active field birders, leading trips throughout the state and even on the Atlantic Ocean as a pelagic bird trip organizer and leader. We are fortunate to have him and his wife, Kim, back in Harford County and involved with the Harford Bird Club. Congratulations Matt!

Our final award is **Bird of the Year**. This award is centered on a bird but also recognizes the discoverer and/or host of the species for their hospitality to the bird and to birders. Because 2011 was such a good year for new birds to Harford (six species were added to the County all-time list), the executive board decided to honor two birds and their hosts. Harford's first Rufous Hummingbird was discovered and carefully attended to by Chris and Rebecca Kellar of Darlington. It was first seen in late October and remained throughout the winter and was still being seen in late March. The Kellers welcomed birders to come and see the bird and shared photos with many of the visitors. Thank you, Chris and Rebecca for your efforts in backyard habitat management and for your generosity to Club members! Our second award went to the staff of Swan Harbor Farm Park for hosting Harford's first LeConte's Sparrow from mid-November to early December. *Matt Hafner* was one of the initial discoverers of the bird and as word spread, folks from throughout the state and region visited this beautiful park to enjoy the rare sighting. We are fortunate to have this preserved area on the Bay that provides outstanding habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. Thank you to Park manager Craig Lanphear and to all who help maintain and enrich this beautiful public property.

-Dennis Kirkwood

Colorado Cruising

From 19-30 June, Dennis and Jean Kirkwood led a band of 7 (*Les Eastman, Marcia Mundrick, Jane Scocca, Joe &*

*Melody Stevens, Jerry Strickroth, Bob Werrlein*) on a 2120 mile trans-Colorado avian odyssey. Skirting the worst fires in Colorado history, our group visited a mosaic of prime birding habitats. In the Pawnee National Grasslands, we found Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspur, 53 species in all, before heading west to Estes and Rocky Mountain NP. There we met Scott Rashid, an expert on small mountain owls who took us to the nest area of recently fledged Northern Pygmy Owls where the 7-inch predators (2 adults and 5 young) sat obligingly as we photographed them for about 20 min. Scott also took us to see, and photograph, young Northern Goshawks on a nest. We did, but moved out smartly when the irate female made a screeching pass at our intrusion. That afternoon we hiked the Alpine Ridge Trail (11,796 ft), braced ourselves against cold 70 mph wind gusts, and located a pair of White-tailed Ptarmigan, and 6 majestic bull elk in velvet. We drove southwest to Grand Junction, Gunnison, Ouray, Durango, Mesa Verde, got 159 species, encountered lightning storms, more fires, and choppers dropping fire retardant chemicals. Flags at National Parks were at half-mast for a ranger killed in a Mt Rainier rescue in Washington state. It was a great and memorable trip, requiring quick changes in plans, like when we found the 'Flying W Ranch', our planned restaurant in Colorado Springs, had burned to the ground before we arrived.

- Bob Werrlein

## HOWARD COUNTY

Over the summer, the Howard County Chapter has been busy with community outreach events. The Club's Student Art Contest garnered 27 submissions. Backpacks were awarded to first place winners in both the elementary and the middle school divisions. Kruti Patel from Patapsco Middle School drew a lovely Goldfinch and Tiffany Lee of Manor Woods Elementary School drew a vibrant Northern Cardinal. Both girls appreciated their backpacks.

The contest was judged by Holly Highfill, a well-respected set and museum design artist, who designed most of the displays for the Robinson Nature Center. Later, the club participated in the Insect

Extravaganza at the Robinson Nature Center. The club's display provided an opportunity to promote the organization's many activities and encourage new membership.

- Kate Tufts

## KENT COUNTY

The Kent County Bird Club lost its long-time Treasurer in May when Glenn Dulmage lost his battle with cancer. Besides serving as Treasurer, Glenn was an avid photographer. He and his wife Juli were frequent travelers and entertained members with programs recounting their visits to France's Camargue and to Costa Rica and Belize to help band hummingbirds, among other destinations. His good humor and lively spirit will be missed.

-Nancy Martin

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

*Pam Oves*, whose duties for the Audubon Naturalist Society normally keep her focused on the flora and fauna of Woodend Sanctuary, reports that she and her husband finally made it to Cape May in early May, where they walked Cape May Point SP, took a boat ride on the Skimmer, and added ten new species to their bird lists, including Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue Grosbeak and American Oystercatcher.

*Stephanie Lovell* reports that she attended Audubon Society's Hog Island Camp in Bremen, Maine in June. "I chose the program that had Scott Weidensaul as leader because I loved his books. From the moment we landed Sunday afternoon to the moment we left Friday morning the days were full of walks, workshops, and sea trips. Every morning there was a 5:45 AM walk before breakfast, and for the truly early birds, Lang Elliot led a 4 a.m. trip to capture the dawn song of island birds. Bill Thompson III and Julie Zickefoose were there with their children. Dr. Sara Morris was there with her daughter. Steve Kress, the founder of Project Puffin and Sea Bird Restoration led a trip to Egg Rock and the Puffin Colony. There were Puffins, Eider, Guillemots, Cormorants, harbor seals and Bald Eagles. An Osprey nest was right by the dining hall/kitchen. Attendees

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included 46 adults, mostly gray haired, and 16 teens between 14 and 18 years. This was a full house for the camp, a first in some time. Every day there were walks to the mainland or out to sea or workshops to learn something about birds and birding including: banding (have you ever heard a sparrow's heartbeat?); care of your equipment; and identifying those frustrating little brown jobs. Evening programs after dinner (the food was excellent by the way) entertained and edified us. Each senior leader had an evening. Steve Kress gave the history of the Puffin Project. Julie Zickefoose demonstrated how she produced a painting. Scott Weidensaul described banding Saw-whet Owls and hummers. The funniest was Bill Thompson on the 'Trials and Tribulations of Birding.' No life birds for me, but a wonderful experience with like-minded folks. If you love Puffins, the sea and birds, and learning new things, this is the place to go."

*Brad Beukema* ventured through the Cimarron National Grasslands near Elkhart, KS in March, hoping to see Lesser Prairie Chickens. He reports, "Seeing them was a long-shot, this

was early in their season, and a large storm system trailing tornadoes and floods loomed to the east, but seeing them display was worth a chance. The Grassland's website lists two leks, but the Forest Service office reported only the East lek has seen activity in recent years. At the prescribed hour before sunrise the Grassland was pitch black. There was a steady wind from the east, light rain, the murmurings of Western Meadowlarks, and the alarm calls of a nearby pack of coyotes. About 30 yards east of the blind, in grasses rooted in sandy soil, a prairie dog town hosted the lek. As the barely discernible first light emerged, the wind and rain let up, and new sounds distinguished themselves from the natter of meadowlarks. The silhouettes of heads, backs, and tails of the chickens appeared to float across the prairie like schooners. With the increasing light, more details of approximately 12 cocks became apparent: raised pinnae feathers, prominent orange-yellow eye combs, and bulging reddish-brown air sacs. Definitely Lesser Prairie-Chickens. With frenetic, almost endless motion, various cocks ran about seeking opponents. Their lek sounds grew louder with their conspicuous bubbly booming as they squared off. One charged as another tried to hold his ground then flew straight

up three or four feet in retreat. It was a singular display and well worth the journey."

Your correspondent also wishes to announce that on May 7 he ticked his 600th bird in the Lower 48, a Varied Thrush that his Nature Conservancy trip leader Eric Horvath whistled (yes, with his lips, not a tape) out of the gloom of an Oregon rain forest. While on an earlier Nature Conservancy trip to the North Platte River to see migrating Sandhill Cranes, I also enjoyed two mornings in converted school buses, watching Greater Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse parading about on leks in the Nebraska Sandhills. It was a great Spring.

-Chris Wright

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND

This was recently published in the Ornithological Newsletter (a combined newsletter of the AOU and other societies): "ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM – On 31 Jan 2012, the OC announced to its member societies that it is initiating a small grants program. This three-year pilot program will offer grants to members of any of

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### Maryland Fall Count 2012

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held Saturday, September 15, 2012 and/or Sunday, September 16, 2012 in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday or Sunday to local chapters and coordinators. Several counties have held organized counts for several years on the third weekend of September. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it is great fun. The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A new checklist compilation form (AOU Supplement order 52) is available on the MOS website, in the "Annual Counts" section: <http://www.mdbirds.org/counts/fall/fallcounts.html>

The list includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

Check the Calendar (Pages 18-19) for September 15 and 16, where Andy Martin has listed the Fall Counts and compilers that were confirmed by his deadline. A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website link above. Anyone already organizing a count or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county without a coordinator are encouraged to contact the state Coordinator.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact me directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count period, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to me by October 13.

**Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is October 5, 2012.** County compilers are asked to submit compilations to me by October 27. Please plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat  
MOS Fall Count Coordinator  
13318 Hunt Ridge  
Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155  
Home phone: 410-531-2417  
E-mail: [ChuckS20@verizon.net](mailto:ChuckS20@verizon.net)

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the OC member societies. During the pilot phase, during which OC expects to award grants totaling approximately \$7500 each year, grants will be limited to projects in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean so as to maximize the return on limited funds. *Gwen Brewer* has agreed to chair this committee. Dr. Brewer is one of the two representatives of the Neotropical Ornithological Society to OC board. She is a science program manager for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources was recently honored with the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NACBI) and the Bird Habitat Joint Ventures' 2008 Bird Conservation Award. In 2011 she was accepted as an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union. Dr. Brewer, who has done research on birds in Maryland, Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Chile, is currently forming the committee that will establish program policies and review proposals. Watch for a call for proposals on or about 1 April 2012. The call will be published on <http://www.ornithologyexchange.org/>, on the NEOORN, CIPAMEX, and SCSCB list-serves, and distributed by the OC member societies (most likely via the OSNA e-mail notification system)."

-*Phil Davis AABC*

## TALBOT COUNTY

In spring 2012, I studied a Common Loon dawn migration departure from the Apalachee Bay on the Florida panhandle. Birds stay over water as long as possible, so this little flyway was shaped by the Bay, which forms a deep indentation in the coast south of Tallahassee. A platform at the south end of St. Marks NWR, just behind the lighthouse, is an ideal observation site. Beginning March 18, I arrived there 15 minutes before dawn each day for 4 weeks. I counted a departure of 1,154 loons. But I also saw 133 flying southbound, "aborting the mission", mostly during the first two weeks of the migratory period. So loon departure was highly choreographed: dependent on physical readiness to go, visibility, and stable weather. Loons can only take off from a sizable body of water. They have a heavy wing-loading, so long-distance flight places energetic and thermoregulatory demands on them;

it's a marathon experience. Thus they are extremely careful when they commit to northbound migration across the continent. The larger point here is that these flights are physically demanding and they risk overheating. Thus the Gulf, spring departures are pretty much limited to dawn and the following hour. Even though a hot sun burns off the clouds by late morning, those warm mid-day ambient conditions are not suitable for loon departure

-*Paul Spitzer*

*George Armistead*, after 10 years of leading or co-leading tours for Field Guides, Inc., is ready for a change. He is now Events Coordinator of the American Birding Association. With Field Guides he led or co-led tours to Antarctica, Arabia, Australia, Argentina, Alaska, Panama, the Galapagos Islands, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Venezuela, France, Manitoba, Puerto Rico, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, a cluster of small island groups in the Southern Ocean south of New Zealand, and New Zealand per se, not to mention exotic Cape May, North Carolina, Florida, Oregon, and Texas. He is greatly enjoying spending more time birding near home in the Middle Atlantic coast region. Perhaps also contributing to this frame of mind was his having lived for extensive periods in Costa Rica, Washington, Colorado, and Jamaica either as a naturalist guide or research assistant. Rounding out his amazing but not-very-highly-compensated lifestyle were trips as an ordinary tourist/birder to Thailand and Brazil. I'd say any *wanderlust* itch he had that needed to be scratched has been more than satisfied. It will be nice to see more of him and to bird with him locally.

-*Harry Armistead*

*Harry and Liz Armistead* were in Cuba with 24 others in April 2012. Preeminent Cuban ornithologist Orlando Garrido was with us for most of the tour. He has a collection of 7,000 beetles and was a world class tennis (beaten by his brother Reynaldo in the final of the Canadian open) and jai alai player. He is also a first class gentleman. At 81 he was hard to keep up with. Amazingly widespread birds were Antillean Palm Swift, Cave Swallow, Cuban Tropic, Turkey

Vulture, Black-whiskered Vireo, West Indian Woodpecker, Gray Kingbird, Red-legged Thrush, and Cattle Egret. We also saw the world's smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird, a male, a little fighter jet of a bird. The tour only found 100 species but the music, dancing, food, art, scenery, museums, several botanical gardens, and the friendly cheerfulness of the Cubans compensated for this. We visited Hemingway's Finca la Vigia, the Bay of Pigs Museum (Museo Girón), the Museo de la Revolución, Buena Vista Social Club, Palacio de Bellas Artes, and the fabulous Hotel Nacional de Cuba, famous for a seminal mob gathering in 1946 of Meyer Lansky et al.. We saw the famous solid gold telephone given by the president of ITT to President Batista (as depicted in 'Godfather II'). Major areas visited were Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Pinar del Río, and Havana. Many of the endemics were shown to us, such as Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Black-hawk, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Martin, Cuban Blackbird, Cuban Crow (a near endemic), and Blue-headed Quail-dove, as well as Olive-capped (a near endemic) and Yellow-headed warblers. Land crabs everywhere in southern Matanzas province really gave me the creeps. The several young, local birding guides who helped us were exceptionally good.

-*Harry Armistead*

## TRI COUNTY

Birding Central Asia - Tri County's world birders, *Patsy* and *Eric Decker*, fulfilled a dream in May when they travelled with Sunbird-Wings ([wingsbirds.com/sunbirdflights/](http://wingsbirds.com/sunbirdflights/)) on a birding and cultural trip to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The logistics were daunting but well worth the effort. While birding they travelled the major overland trading routes of commerce from China to Europe used since ancient times by the Mongols, Greeks, Persians, Europeans and Russians. They birded steppe grasslands and deserts; riparian and alpine regions; sometimes camping and sometimes staying in accommodations from very nice to the absolute basic. The cultural immersion was fulfilling and the birding was very successful with the target birds cooperating. Highlights included: Barred Warbler, Pander's

*continued on page 8*

## Chatper Chatter continued from page 7

Ground Jay, Dalmatian Pelican, Red-headed and Grey-necked Buntings, the stunning Severtzov's Tit Warbler and an easy Himalayan Snowcock. Adding to this were spectacular scenery and wildflowers. Patsy and Eric felt safe throughout the trip and recommend it as an excellent cultural and birding tour to a unique part of the world.

- Carol Broderick

**An Appreciation:  
John Grant Malcolm**



photo by Bill Murphy

**(April 15, 1941–July 2, 2012)**

Longtime MOS member and Past President John G. Malcolm passed away unexpectedly on July 2, 2012. His widow, Joy Aso, says that John loved a good story. If you have a story about John you would like to share, please send it to Joy Aso, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. Also, if you wish, donations in John's memory may be made to MOS-John Malcolm Memorial, 4141 Quail Way, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. The following Appreciation for John was prepared by Michael Bowen and appeared also in the Montgomery County Bird Club newsletter, *The Chat*.

Maureen F. Harvey

John Malcolm was born and brought up in Missoula, Montana. As a native of Big Sky Country, his first impressions of the East were not promising, and it seemed at that time

unlikely to be his career destination. He spent eight years in the U.S. Army, serving in California and Texas, and ending his service career at Fort Myer, Virginia, having also enjoyed a happy portion of his service in Italy, where he fell in love with the city of Verona. Rather than go back West, he stayed in the DC area where he earned a B.A. with honors (1970) and an M.B.A. (1971) from the University of Maryland. There followed a fellowship at the U.S. Defense Department and a long career as a management and systems analyst

in federal service—at the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services—until his retirement in 1999. John also taught courses on marketing and advertising at the University of Maryland (University College) for 20 years, starting in 1975, and he thoroughly enjoyed teaching.

Work colleagues of John remember him as hardworking, absolutely reliable, innovative, unflappable, unswervingly ethical, and possessed of a delightful sense of humor—qualities that those of us in the local birding community later came to recognize too, as he became involved in birding and started a remarkable record of service to the Maryland Ornithological Society.

As his interest in and knowledge of birds grew, John started taking classes taught by Don Messersmith in the late 1970s, where he met others who would become lifelong friends, like Don himself, Daphne Gemmill, and Bill Murphy, who was Don's teaching assistant. They formed the nucleus of a tight-knit little birding group that banded all over the mid-Atlantic and beyond, traveling in John's VW bus. At that time, John met beginning birder Joy Aso, who was later to become his wife. (John had been married and divorced and had a son, Lynn, and a daughter, Linda.) To this day, members of the group recall

their trips with a tremendous amount of pleasure.

John's work with and for the Maryland Ornithological Society started in 1985, when he became a state director from the Montgomery County Chapter (as the Montgomery Bird Club was then called). In 1989, he became president of MOS and served in this capacity until 1992. Other MOS officers at the time describe him as easy to work with, and they noted the same sterling personal qualities as did his colleagues in the federal government. Then, as past-president of MOS, rather than sit back and rest on his laurels, John once again became a state director from Montgomery and concomitantly started (and in the case of the pin program, continued) the work that will be most familiar to those who have joined MOS in recent years—the awards program and the conference pin program. And for many years, his house was the storage place for a myriad of MOS products, such as coffee mugs and piles of "Yellow Books," and John was the official MOS source for all such things.

As MOS president he had become persuaded that the Society needed to honor its outstanding workers and contributors (volunteers all), and he spent the succeeding years not only convincing the chapter presidents that they should recognize their best contributing members but personally making the award plaques or certificates, often writing or suggesting the wording. This program drew directly on John's experience with printing and computers, which he had gained in his work for the federal government. Surely no one in MOS has ever possessed such a deep knowledge of print fonts and paper properties or such a wicked sense of humor for the wording of an award plaque! One of my prized possessions is an "Attaboy" certificate, designed by John and presented after I had served as the local coordinator of an MOS conference.

For several years, he and Joy served on the board of directors of the

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*Scholarship continued from page 8*

former World Nature Association where his management expertise was very helpful to his mentor, Don Messersmith. In recent years, he and Don also worked together on the recognition of MOS 50-year members. John's love of puns and odd occurrences he found on the Internet, which he shared with others, were always much anticipated and appreciated by everyone lucky enough to be on the distribution list.

Before John became MOS president he had started a program where artists competed to have their design reproduced on the small pins that are distributed to attendees at the annual MOS Conference; the same design is used on conference T-shirts. As one of the judges asked by John to help rate the submitted designs, I was able to see at close range how admirably fair and even-handed he was. Not once in the 10 years I acted as a judge did John reveal whose artwork we were assessing or even who my fellow judges were. Not once did he suggest that I should consider any one design as superior or inferior. A judging session with John over morning coffee was for me the highlight of many a cold January day.

John's sense of humor could come to the fore under almost any conditions. In 2008, at a memorial occasion at Woodend to honor the late Paul DuMont, a series of Paul's birding friends delivered quiet remarks. When it was John's turn, he broke the somber mood and brought the house down with a hilarious tale of a pelagic trip at which everyone, including Paul, succumbed to seasickness. It was John at his best, and Paul would have loved it. John Malcolm was a birder, and a good one, but he was much more besides. He loved traveling and collecting (tea bags represent one unconventional item!), cuisine, and companionship. In recent years, poor health caused him to slow down, but he always exuded cheerfulness and never quit volunteering.

There could be no finer epitaph for John than the one he penned himself before a June 2012 brain operation

he feared he might not survive: "Tell everyone that I've had a great life, and I appreciate each and every one of them. If you receive this message, know that I loved you and was glad that you were part of my life. To remember me, please go do something nice for someone less fortunate than you."

—Michael Bowen  
Montgomery Bird Club

### **2013 MOS Scholarship Program Preliminary Announcement Tom Strikwerda**

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the summer 2013 scholarship program, open to Maryland teachers, nature center staff, park rangers, and youth leaders, to attend week-long ecology and ornithology workshops.

In 2012 six scholarship recipients attended workshops at the beautiful Hog Island Audubon camp in Maine (a description of this experience by Stephanie Lovell, a member of the Montgomery County Chapter, who attended one of the camps, can be found in Chapter Chatter).

Awards, each valued at about \$1100, cover tuition, room, and board for an intensive six days of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, or natural history. Travel expenses to and from the workshops are the responsibility of the recipient.

Although the 2013 workshop selections and dates haven't yet been announced, they're expected to be similar to 2012. The application and workshop information for 2012 can serve as a guide for preliminary planning for the 2013 program and is available on the MOS website ([www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org)).

Official information for 2013 will be posted on the website when available and announced in the next issue of the *Yellowthroat*. Questions? Please contact Scholarship Chair Tom Strikwerda

at [tom.strikwerda@verizon.net](mailto:tom.strikwerda@verizon.net).

### **2013 MOS Conference Edgewood, Harford County May 24-26**

We're going back to Harford County for 2013. Come to the conference and spend Memorial Day weekend there birding with friends! Our first Harford County conference was in 2008, also at the end of May, which proved to be an excellent location and time for birding with a total of 173 species for that conference.

Perhaps 2013 will prove to be even more productive. There will be birding in Harford and Cecil Counties with perhaps a foray into Baltimore County and a side trip to Bombay Hook. As we discovered in 2008, Harford has many wonderful birding spots with diversified habitat. Come and join us for another magical Harford conference experience.

As in 2008, the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood will be our base for meetings and meals. Field trips will be staged from the parking lot behind Richlin. Overnight guests may stay at either the Ramada Conference Center or the Sleep Inn for \$75 a night. The Ramada Conference Center will be the location for our Silent Auction and Raffle and also the nature store. All three facilities are located within feet of each other.

This year I am looking for someone to run the Silent Auction and Raffle. Also needed is a Conference Field Trip Coordinator. We are always looking for volunteers to help with leading the field trips and local guides to help the leaders. Plus, volunteers are needed to help with the Silent Auction and other conference tasks. Contact me if you are interested or have questions. Your talents and energies are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Janet Shields, Conference Chair  
[janetbill@prodigy.net](mailto:janetbill@prodigy.net)  
410-901-1039



## Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

- The weather conditions of April and May of this year were so mild that lots of birders were regularly visiting favorite sites in search of the expected migrants or in hopes of finding unusual species. One of the most unusual finds was a YELLOW RAIL, heard on May 10 in Somerset County by a dedicated and diligent marsh survey team. The team, led by Ron Gutberlet of Salisbury and including Chris Snow and Jennifer Thompson, was working along Big Monie Creek and heard a fascinating tic sequence during their first survey of the year. After the first sequence the team carefully ruled out the possibility that the sound was from Clapper or Virginia Rails. Fortunately the bird provided a second tic sequence which clearly carried the distinct pattern of YELLOW RAIL vocalization: two soft tics alternating with three. Although serious birders realize that a few YELLOW RAILS must pass through Maryland each year, these birds are so highly secretive that they are rarely heard or seen. Attempts to find this bird the next day (on May 11) were not met with success, so the great joy of this find is to be shared by just the three birders mentioned above.
- Another highly unusual sighting this spring was of a WESTERN TANAGER. This bird was briefly seen May 12 in Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery County. The sighting was reported by Dave Czaplak and Mary Ann Todd of Montgomery County, and though the bird did not stay long, Dave managed to get photographs that were fully convincing. Later the same day, Kathie Lambert of Harwood, MD heard and caught a glimpse of what was probably the same bird. Further attempts to locate it were not successful.
- Most years Maryland has at least one ANHINGA sighting in the spring, and this year the lucky finder was Matt Grey of Anne Arundel County. Matt found an adult ANHINGA at Lake Waterford Park in Pasadena, MD on May 4. This bird lent well to chasing so birders from the region immediately converged on the end of the lake where some brushy trees with low-hanging branches had been chosen by the bird. For the next several days the ANHINGA remained in the same general region and was found and enjoyed by many birders. The final sighting report was provided by an un-named fisherman who described seeing it the morning of May 10 as it flew up the lake away from the dam.
- Maryland Birders normally head for Old Legislative Road in Allegany County when they want to look for HENSLOW'S SPARROWS, so birders of the DC and Baltimore regions were delighted to hear a report on April 19 from Matt Hafner that there was a singing HENSLOW'S SPARROW across the street from his home in Harford County. Over the next few days the calling continued, the numbers of singing males grew to two, and hopes grew high that there might be nesting success in the hay fields that the birds were using. Kim and Matt Hafner provided gracious hosting to a fine parade of interested birders for many days. All seemed to be going well until May 17. On that date the land owners gave word of plans to harvest

the hay of the field. By the end of the day the field mowing was complete and after May 17 there were no additional reports of HENSLOW SPARROW singing at the site. It was certainly fun while it lasted, providing lots of Harford County sightings of this cute but elusive little bird. But nesting success was not attained.

- Within shorebird flocks during migration through our region, birders optimistically search for the unusual bird, and such searching on April 16 by Fred Shaffer of Anne Arundel County caught the presence of a RUFF. The bird was foraging amongst a large flock of shorebirds in some mud flats of Patuxent River State Park near Jackson Landing, Anne Arundel County. Prompt announcement of the sighting immediately brought in many more birders. Successful RUFF sightings were attained through Apr 17, but the bird could not be found in that area on the 18th or later.
- Wading birds of our region in spring and summer normally include GLOSSY IBIS and occasionally a WHITE-FACED IBIS can be singled out. This season three sightings of WHITE-FACED IBIS have been reported in Maryland. The first was seen and photographed April 20 by Mike Burchett and Betsy Bangert at the Fairmont WMA in Somerset County. This bird was feeding alone near the parking lot for the first impoundment. Six weeks later, on June 2, Carol Broderick of Worcester County found another WHITE-FACED IBIS in Somerset County. This one was just past the entrance to Deal Island WMA and was feeding in the company of several dozen GLOSSY IBIS. When it flew off into the marsh it could not be relocated. On July 11, Marcia Balestri and Kathy Calvert of Frederick County found another WHITE-FACED IBIS in Somerset County. This one was also in Deal Island WMA, on Green Dumpster Road.
- A few years ago WHITE PELICANS started making regular winter use of the food and protection offered by Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, but they were not often seen north of that site. This spring provided a brief exception on May 12 when six of them were seen near Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's County. Maren Gimpel of Chestertown had the luck of being in the right place at the right time to add them to her already large species list for Queen Anne's County. Maren noted that the birds were circling as if they were intending to land near the Rte 50 Holiday Inn. The cove beside this Holiday Inn is where several other interesting waterfowl have shown up in recent years. No additional sightings were reported.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVES are occasionally noticed in our region, but not every year. This year one was found May 24 by Rob Ostrowski on the Assateague Causeway, Worcester County. A report of the sighting was promptly relayed through Matt Hafner, making it possible for Mike Burchett of Ocean Pines to quickly reach the site, find the bird, and get a highly suitable documentation photograph before the bird departed. It was not seen again.

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## Birds of Note continued from page 10

• A juvenile BROWN PELICAN showed up on the Anacostia River in DC on July 5, much to the joy of DC and Maryland birders. Dan Rauch of DC was alerted to the presence of this bird by District Department of Environment staff, and promptly joined with Wayne Baumgartner to find the bird and attain some excellent photos. BROWN PELICANS are regularly seen along the Atlantic Shore each year, and in recent years they have become familiar visitors on the Chesapeake Bay as far north as Tilghman Island in Talbot County. However, they are not regular visitors to DC. The only previous accepted record of BROWN PELICAN in DC was for an East Potomac Park sighting in March of 2004.

• Even in the midst of summer heat and dense tourist traffic a few birders still slip over to Ocean City just to check things out. On June 25 Jeff Culler and Joe Hanfman of Columbia, Howard County, made such a visit and amongst other sightings they found two GULL-BILLED TERNS. Both were on Skimmer Island, which is being gradually expanded with additional sand after erosion had brought the size below suitable dimensions for the nesting species that have traditionally been found there. On July 13 Mike Burchett of Ocean Pines reported another GULL-BILLED TERN at Skimmer Island. This one was flying around the western side of the island, and some photos were successfully attained.



## The Secret MOS Bachman's Warbler Field Trip by Phil Davis

What? You didn't get a phone call in the middle of the night telling you to be ready to leave at dawn and swearing you to secrecy? Talk about "managing rarities," how would you like to have served as the gatekeeper for this "mega" rarity sighting, less than three miles from the Maryland border? Enough of the tease, the story can now be told ...

### Discovery of a Bachman's Warbler near Lorton, VA. Primarily a Summary of the Published Accounts of Barnes (1954) and Murray (1954).

On Saturday, May 8, 1954, Audubon Society of the District of Columbia members Harriet Sutton (1920-2000) and Morgan Gilbert were counting birds for the annual May Count at "Lebanon," the 458 acre private estate and nature sanctuary of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Bartsch on Mason Neck, near Lorton, VA, about five miles from Mount Vernon. Prowling through the swampy lowlands and stumbling through the slick mud and poison ivy along Pohick Creek, they heard a strange bird song. They located the bird, checked their field guides, and confirmed that the singing was from a male Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*), at the time, the rarest songbird in North America and now presumed to be extinct.

Sutton and Gilbert notified Audubon Society President Irston R. Barnes (1904-1988) and Shirley Briggs (1918-2004) and they re-located and observed the bird at close range the next day, Sunday, 9 May.

The following day, Monday, 10 May, the word was "out" and birders began arriving at Lebanon at dawn seeking to add this "mega" rarity to their life lists. Dr. Bartsch (1871-1960) decided to take precautions to protect the bird in case it was nesting so that it would not be driven from its territory. On Monday evening Bartsch declared the territory along Pohick Creek closed and made arrangements for two special guided tours, using only the trails. The first tour was scheduled for the following Saturday, 15 May and the second a week later on 22 May.

On Thursday, 13 May, Barnes called noted ornithologist Dr. Arthur

A. Allen (1884-1964) at Cornell University and told him about the bird. Allen was about to depart for a trip to Hudson Bay but decided to detour in the hope of securing the first recording of a Bachman's singing. Allen arrived on Friday afternoon, 14 May, and Edwin G. Davis guided Allen and his assistant, Dr. Paul Kellogg (1899-1975), to the bird; however, this was one of the few days it was not singing.

The following day, Saturday 15 May, Briggs guided Allen and Kellogg back in to the swamp and despite some challenges (rain, aircraft overhead, nearby Army artillery practice, and leaving a second reel of tape in the car) useful recordings were obtained. The guided tours ended later that day after enabling several more Society members to see and hear the bird. The area was then closed again for another week.

The annual Society picnic was held the following Saturday, 22 May, at Lebanon and was attended by about 200 members and friends. About one third of the guest were guided to the edge of the bird's territory. Everyone was able to hear him sing and at least one-third reported fleeting glimpses.

The first day the bird was sighted, Sutton glimpsed a bird that could have been a female and on the next day, 9 May, Barnes observed, but could not identify, a small warbler that associated with the male Bachman's. During the last tour on 22 May, several members observed what seemed to be a female Bachman's about eight feet from the male. It followed the male when it flew off. Although most of the field marks noted seemed to indicate a female Bachman's, not all critical details were observed. However, neither a mate nor nesting were ever confirmed, despite the bird's three and a half week stay and steady vocalization.

Since the bird had now been on territory for at least two weeks, it was decided to establish a daily watch to try and observe nesting behavior, a female, young, or to discover a nest location. Observers were given strict location assignments and procedures for note-taking. From 26 May through 2 Jun, watches were conducted by Society members, including the MOS's Robert E. Stewart.

Each time the bird was observed, its behavior was described as being consistent until 30 May when it appeared to become more

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### Bachman's continued from page 11

nervous and less persistent in its singing. Throughout the period, the bird endured gunfire sounds from Fort Belvoir and military operations across the creek. On 1 Jun, the bird abruptly departed. At 10:15 am, Karl Trever was observing the bird when four men appeared across the creek with a truck and a pumper. As soon as the engine started pumping, the bird stopped singing and flew off into the woods away from the creek. Trever remained until 3:15 pm, but did not see or hear the bird again. The bird was not found the next day and a final check was conducted on 5 Jun.

Barnes first publically told the story of the bird in his 20 Jun weekly column in the Washington Post and Times Herald, "Rarest of Warblers Quits Virginia Claim." UPI picked up the story, which was subsequently published in newspapers around the country.

### The Secret MOS Field Trip

In 2012, while researching the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center archives for historical records of interest to the MD/DC Records Committee, I came across a previously unpublished letter dated 11 May 1954 from Chan Robbins to Carol S. Roesler, who was, at the time, writing a book (however, never published) on warblers.

Robbins wrote:

Dear Carol:

Here's the latest on the Bachman's. The entire area where the bird was seen was closed yesterday afternoon and no one is permitted to enter except on guided tours on May 15 and May 22 beginning at 10 a.m.

Since the bird remains in a single small area, and since the newspaper and TV publicity given this warbler is bound to bring a deluge of birders from all over the Northeast, they feel it is essential to refuse admittance except at these specified times.

They are hoping the bird has a nest, although no evidence has been produced as yet.

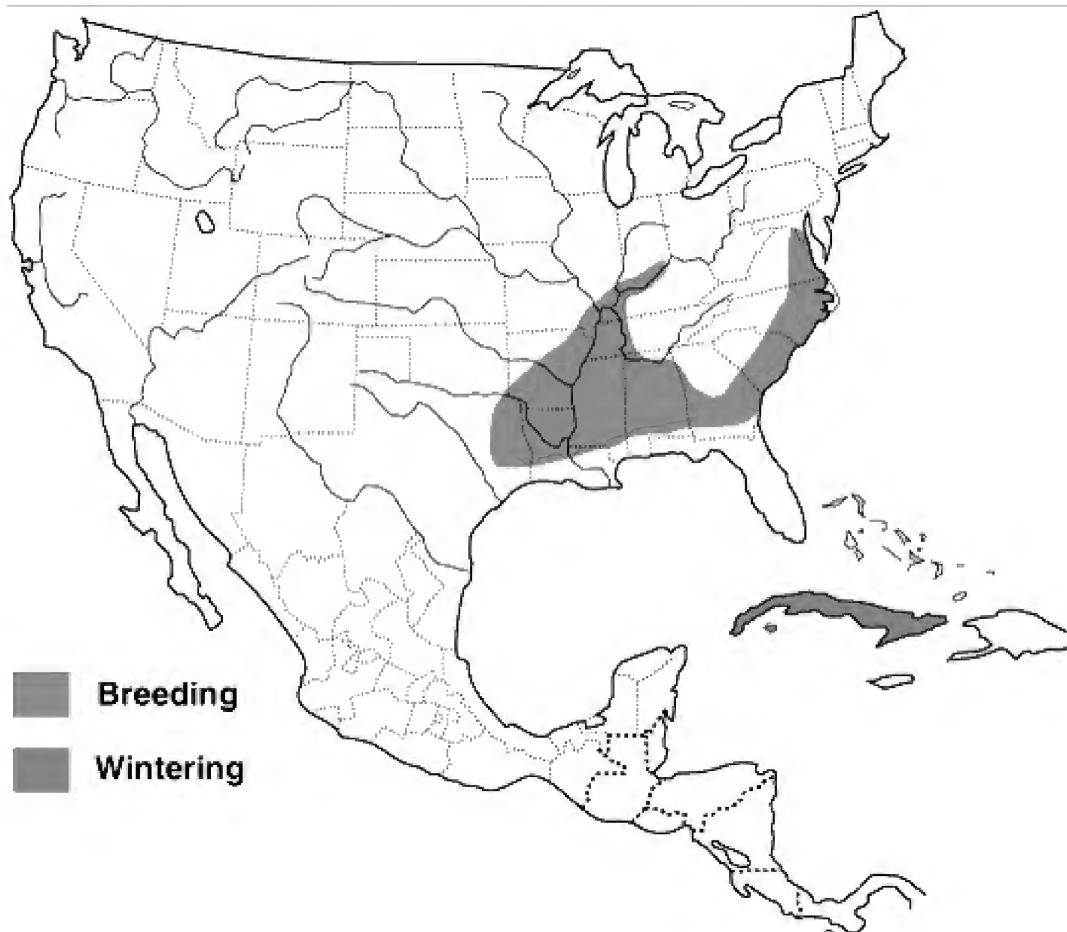
Dr. Bartsch has not yet seen the bird himself as he has been ill, but he hopes to get down on Saturday.

A few of us went over this morning, not knowing that the area had been closed. We were permitted to go to other parts of the estate, and observed some 25 species of warblers. Dr. Bartsch hoped that we could come back on Saturday and see the Bachman's, but that's the date of the annual convention of the M.O.S.

The rest of this letter must be considered confidential, at least until all the fuss over this bird blows over. I did see the bird and

the people with me all heard it. When I typed up my notes, I made a carbon copy as I thought you might be interested in it. I'm enclosing it herewith. At the moment, the chances of seeing the bird and particularly of having a chance to study it seem rather remote. John Aldrich went over yesterday before the ban was imposed and could not find it because it stopped singing about 11 a.m. If the Saturday tours, in small groups, start at 10 a.m., it may be that only the first few parties will hear the bird sing; and judging from our experience today, few people will actually see it because it was too far from the path (and no one is permitted off the path). Perhaps conditions will be better on Saturday, but I'd hate to have a lot of hopeful people come down on a special trip from New York and New England and have many of them be disappointed. I just thought I'd warn you what the set-up is.

Sincerely,  
Chan



So, an MOS group did see the bird on Monday, 10 May, a fact which was sworn to secrecy since the area was "officially" closed that day. Clearly Bartsch, Robbins, et al. did not want to acknowledge that an exception to the closed policy had been granted. In Jan 2012, I congratulated Robbins on seeing the bird, and stated that Roger Tory Peterson must surely be jealous, and queried him for any additional details on this sighting. He replied with the following:

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Bachman's continued from page 12

**23 Jan 2012: Robbins to Davis:**

Hello, Phil ...

Here's the rest of the Bartsch Bachman's story.

You know we were all sworn to secrecy, but all of the parties are now deceased.

Paul Bartsch gave me permission to take a small group of Baltimore MOS folks to see the Bachman's Warbler--as long as we stayed on the trail and did nothing to disturb the bird and did not breath a word to anyone. So on May 11, 1954 I took about five Baltimore people to hear it sing; the bird was a little bit off the trail so I couldn't promise anyone they would actually see it. Attached is a copy of the notes I took. I sent a copy of these notes to Stuart and Carol Roesler, who were writing a book on warblers at that time. Unfortunately that book was never published. So except for the Roeslers (almost 60 years ago) you are the first person to see these notes.

Chan

The following are Robbins' attached notes on his sighting, also never previously published:

**NOTES ON BACHMAN'S WARBLER**

Dr. Paul Bartsch's estate "Lebanon", Gunston Hall Road, Lorton, Virginia

May 11, 1954 9:30 to 10:00 a.m., EDT

Singing male observed in moist floodplain habitat with dense understory, within 50 to 200 yards of Pohick Creek.

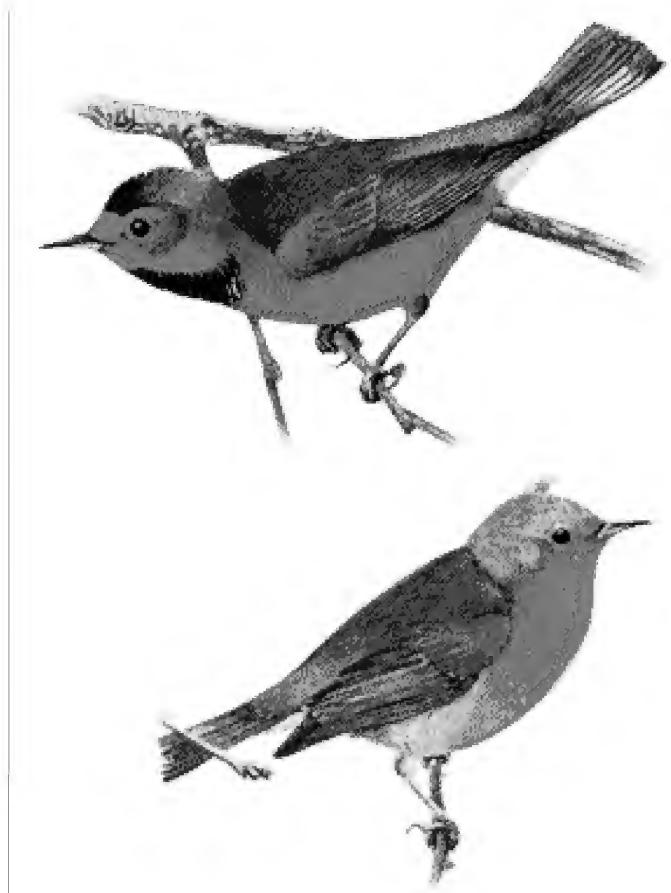
It sang almost continuously while we were there, generally giving 6 songs per minute, but occasionally omitting one--that is, giving them at the same rate of 6 per minute, but leaving out one of the six utterances.

The song was first recognized at a distance of about 150 yards, by its Parula-like form, but unmusical quality and unchanging pitch. In rhythm it was very similar to the common 'broken' song of the Parula Warbler--the song which might be described as a series of separate notes, each a half tone higher than the preceding one; not the single rising trill. The pitch, however, remained constant. Although the quality bore a resemblance to the Worm-eating Warbler's song, it struck me as even more similar to the quality of the Golden-wing. It was as though a Golden-wing omitted the first (the higher) note of its song and instead sang 7 or 8 short, rapid notes. To my ear, the pitch of the last part of the Golden-wing song would fit the Bachman's very closely. The Bachman's gave the impression of being distinctly lower pitched than a Prairie Warbler that was singing in a nearby brushy area across the creek. The Bachman's song ranged in length from 6 to 9 notes, the last one or two notes frequently sounding a little less intense than the others. They were sung so rapidly that it took a bit of concentration to be able to obtain an accurate count. The majority of the time the song was a simple succession of similar notes, but occasionally the bird would add a very short clear high-pitched note at the end of the song, and for several successive times would include this same ending. Although contrasting in quality with the buzzy quality of the rest of the song, the single clear note at the end was not so loud as the rest of the song and could easily escape detection; the final clear note was not heard at all when the bird was more than 100 or 150

yards away. This final clear note reminded me a little of the quiet little chip of a Tufted Titmouse, but it was not so similar that it could be confused with it.

I saw the bird for only about a minute. It was perched in a bare spot on a small branch 20 to 25 feet off the ground, and did not change position except to turn occasionally to one side. It was singing at the usual rate but was not feeding. It finally made two short flights, perhaps after insects, and disappeared from sight.

When heard from a distance of 100 to 200 yards there were frequently abrupt changes in volume as though the bird made a long flight between successive songs. Since the change was in intensity rather than in direction, and since the people who saw the bird on earlier occasions said it always stayed very close to



the same place, I'm inclined to believe that the bird changed the direction in which it was facing and that this change produced the observed effect.

Chandler S. Robbins  
Patuxent Research Refuge  
Laurel, Maryland  
5/11/54

Later (on 26 Jan 2012), Robbins commented to me in response to a query, "I did not write down the names of the Baltimore MOS folks. Most likely Erana Lubbert, Gladys Cole, and Alice Kaestner (Peter's aunt) were among them but I can't say for sure."

MOS Baltimore Bird Club member Erana Lubbert (1901-2002) later told Joy Wheeler (Wheeler 2001) about adding Bachman's Warbler to her life list at Bartsch's estate, where she gathered with

*continued on page 14*

*Bachman's continued from page 13*

other birders to see the bird. Long-time Maryland birders Hank and Peter Kaestner do not have any direct recollection of their Aunt Alice talking about this bird, but they believe that Gladys Cole (1909-1995) may have mentioned it.

I think we can now all agree that Chan Robbins can keep a secret!

**Post Scripts**

- Dr. Paul Bartsch (1871-1960), the long-serving curator of mollusks at the Smithsonian Institution, was originally an ornithologist and a traditional general naturalist who was the first bona fide bird bander in North America. He never lost his interest in birds. Bartsch retired from the Smithsonian to the Lebanon estate in 1946 and, unfortunately, when the Bachman's was found, Bartsch was too old and too weak to come out and see it (fide Meanley in Rankin 1996).
- The Lebanon plantation/estate, located on Pohick Bay, across from Fort Belvoir, is now part of the Pohick Bay Regional Park, Fairfax County, Virginia. When Bartsch was alive, Fort Belvoir partnered with him to make the upper part of Pohick Bay into a wildlife sanctuary.
- There are three other prior Bachman's Warbler records for Virginia; however, this was the northernmost record for this species, except for a record of a pair in Indianapolis, about 60 miles further north, in May 1917.
- John Terborgh, who saw the 1954 bird, later wrote (Terborgh 1998), "I later learned that a Bachman's Warbler, presumably the same bird, reappeared on the banks of Pohick Creek during the next two springs. There was never a hint of a female, and indeed, the extraordinary vocal exertions of the male suggested that he was in search of a mate." The Virginia "Gold Book" (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) also reported "one singing male in the same yard at the edge of Ft. Belvoir, 10-31 May 1958. may have been the same individual present in 1954 (although there is no record of whether it was present in the intervening years.)"

**Natural History Notes**

- Bachman's Warbler was discovered by Dr. John Bachman, a Lutheran minister of Charleston, South Carolina, who took a specimen near that city in July, 1833. He showed the specimen to his great friend, John James Audubon, who then named the bird after the minister. It was not seen again anywhere until Charles S. Galbraith, a millinery collector, took a specimen 53 years later at Lake Pontchartrain, near New Orleans.
- Bachman's was one of our smallest warblers, only 4-1/4 inches in length.
- The species nested in deep swamps and was very local in its distribution and was said to spend the winter in western Cuba and the Isle of Pines, migrating through Florida and the Keys.
- Although questions and controversies surround later sightings, most authorities believe that the last individual was confirmed alive in 1961 and that Bachman's Warbler is probably extinct.
- Some USFWS references indicated that the northern range of Bachman's Warbler included southern Maryland. I diligently tracked down the possible sources for this statement, but no definitive statements were ever located to suggest that the

species was ever reported in Maryland. It appears that the Maryland reference stems from Barnes' 1954 article and his description of the Pohick Creek habitat which was then extrapolated by others to extend to suitable matching habitat from across the Potomac River in Maryland. Unfortunately, this erroneous Maryland range description has now been propagated into other published Bachman's Warbler species accounts.

**Related Factoids**

- Bachman's Warbler is pronounced "BACK man's" - that's the family pronunciation.
- Bachman's Warbler is the one species in his own North American field guides that Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996) never saw. Peterson wrote earlier in 1948, "I do not know a man in America who can show me a Bachman's Warbler."
- In 2001, Marshall Iliff had developed a Maryland "10 more miles" list of species that would be added to the Maryland list if our border was extended by ten miles all around. He did not include Bachman's Warbler on that list, but the Pohick Creek bird was less than three miles from the Maryland boundary at the western edge of the Potomac River.

**Acknowledgements.** Thanks are extended to the following: Chan Robbins for providing his notes and background information and his permission to publish this story; Dave Bridge for reviewing the article and providing some missing historical dates; and to Paul Hamel for his comments on the historical range of this species.

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Phil is the Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee.

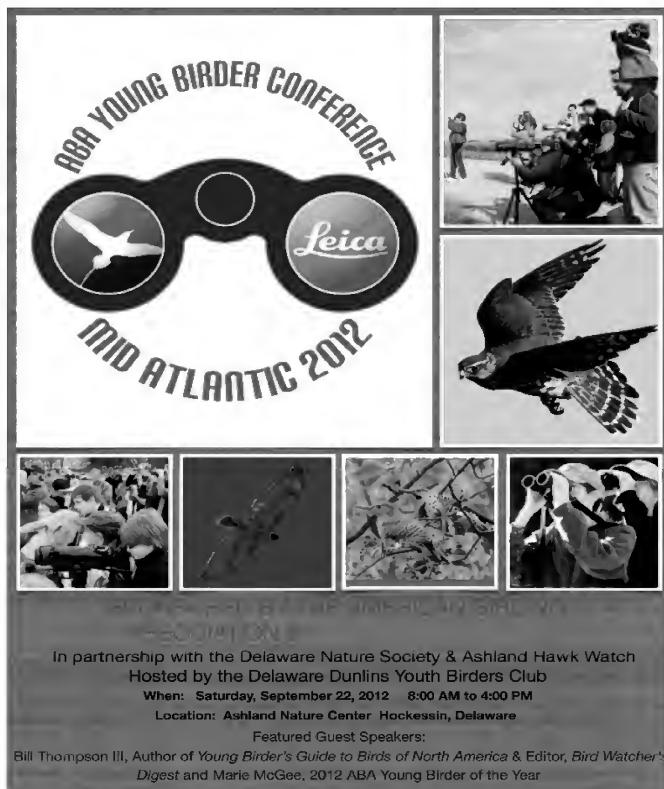
## Mid-Atlantic Young Birder Conference September 22

The Delaware Dunlins Youth Birders Club will play host to a very special event this fall: the first-ever Mid-Atlantic Young Birder Conference. The event is organized by the American Birding Association (ABA) and will be held on Saturday, September 22 at the Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware.

The conference will provide an outstanding opportunity for young birders to meet other youth that share their passion for birds. A variety of activities throughout the day will connect youth to birding in an educational and inspirational way. Nationally-known youth birding advocate Bill Thompson III (editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*) will be a presenter, along with Marie McGee, the 2012 Young Birder of the Year. And we will be anticipating a great showing of raptors during this peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration!

The attached flyers provide basic information about the event. The registration fee is just \$25 for a full day of programming-- quite a bargain! To register, you may contact our own Bill Stewart, who is organizing this event for the ABA. Bill's email address is: [bstewart@aba.org](mailto:bstewart@aba.org) Sign up soon-- space is very limited.

Hope to see you at this event in September!



The flyer for the Mid-Atlantic Young Birder Conference features a large graphic of a pair of binoculars with a bird in flight as the lens. The text "ABA YOUNG BIRDER CONFERENCE" is curved along the top of the binoculars, and "Leica" is on the right lens. Below the binoculars, the text "MID ATLANTIC 2012" is written in a stylized font. To the right of the main graphic are four smaller images: a person in a field, a hawk in flight, a group of people, and a close-up of a bird.

In partnership with the Delaware Nature Society & Ashland Hawk Watch  
Hosted by the Delaware Dunlins Youth Birders Club  
When: Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Location: Ashland Nature Center Hockessin, Delaware  
Featured Guest Speakers:  
Bill Thompson III, Author of *Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* & Editor, *Bird Watcher's Digest* and Marie McGee, 2012 ABA Young Birder of the Year



### Maryland Biodiversity Project By Bill Hubick

A new project was started in June 2012 that will be of interest to many Maryland birders and other naturalists. Jim Brighton and I have created a web site called "Maryland Biodiversity" that intends to thoroughly catalog all the living things in Maryland. In just over a month, the site features checklists listing over 4,000 species including all of Maryland's birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, bees, and even most Maryland's plants.

The site features photos of over 1,000 species, contributed by more than 30 photographers. The site is designed to allow maximum participation from the Maryland natural history community and we believe it will become an indispensable resource for Maryland nature lovers. Check it out at [www.marylandbiodiversity.com](http://www.marylandbiodiversity.com).

### Editor's and Designer's Note

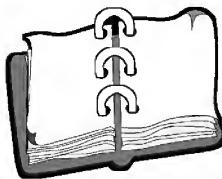
This is the first issue of the *Yellowthroat* for which Richard Donham and Eric Skrzypczak are serving as the Editor and Designer. We are proud to be a part of the talented team that writes, assembles and delivers the *Yellowthroat* to you. We believe that the *Yellowthroat* knits together Maryland birders by serving as a means of communication, education, and enjoyment for all who love birds and the natural world.

Lydia Schindler and Sue Probst served as Editor and Designer for the past 8 years. Their dedication and skill in these tasks is reflected in the extraordinary quality and usefulness of the newsletter during that period. Both Richard and Eric feel the obligation to strive to emulate their professionalism as we look forward.

Ultimately, the *Yellowthroat* is a product of the MOS membership. All the items are written by members who have busy lives full of deadlines and commitments. Without their contributions, the newsletter would not exist. Through their contributions you find out about what has been going on, what birds have been seen by whom and where, what issues are percolating that affect our community, what events and opportunities will be happening, and how to become more involved when you are ready.

We hope and expect that the *Yellowthroat* will continue to be a vital part of the birding community in the region and that you will join us to help make it serve our needs as birders.

Richard Donham and Eric Skrzypczak



# MOS Calendar

## Sep - Oct 2012

Saturday, September 1

**Anne Arundel.** Wooten's Landing. Half day. Located in southwest AA County, Wooten's Landing is an excellent place to see many bird species. There are hedgerows and fields, mature forests, and freshwater swamp created by beavers. Most trails are grass covered and easy to follow, with one steep climb and some sections may be muddy. Recommend boots and insect repellent. Meet 8 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva Rd and South Haven Rd. Leader: Kathie Lambert, kbert59@yahoo.com.

**Cecil.** Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kick-off to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are hilly sections. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Meet 7 AM at the Turkey Point parking lot. Leader: Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

**ANNUAL FALL PICNIC/SOCIAL.** **Harford.** Starting at 2 PM at the Eden Mill Pavilion. Info: Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarms@gmail.com.

**Howard.** Butterflies through Binoculars. Lake Elkhorn Powerline Vegetation Management Study Tract. Meet 9:30 AM at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies, and receive expert instruction on their identification. Easy walking. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior, but Dick will also use net and jars to provide brief close-up examinations. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities. Leader: Dick Smith, 410-997-7439.

Indicates Field Trip

**Kent.** Beginner's Bird Walk: Chestertown area. We'll take a leisurely pace visiting woodlands, fields, and small ponds looking for late-season breeding birds and early autumn migrants such as warblers, vireos, swallows, and flycatchers. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, September 2

**Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at the Vollmer Center parking lot (4915 Greenspring Ave) for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

**Talbot.** Tilghman's Island in search of late local nesting species, plus early arriving south bound transient swallows, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Depart St. Michael's Village Shopping Center 7 AM.

Monday, September 3

**Harford.** Ma and Pa Trail. We return to this newest segment of Harford Co's iconic rails-to-trails Ma and Pa conversion project. Diverse habitat along the way promises a variety of birds. Meet at Annie's playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston at 7:30 AM. The leader is Susan Hood, 410-877-0574 or susanhhood@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 4

**Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). Continuing series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders

welcome. The park has a variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods, and hillside forest. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379 or ruthec@verizon.net.

**MEETING. Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "A Birding Trip to Central and Eastern Australia," with *Gary Van Velsir*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete\_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, September 5

**Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

**MEETING. Cecil.** Speaker: *Doug Tallamy*, U of DE, will speak about attracting birds and butterflies to our gardens. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, [maryanne.dolan@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.dolan@gmail.com).

**Montgomery.** Little Bennett RP. Half day. Meet 7:30 AM to bird some of the trails of Little Bennett RP for migrant and resident birds. Expect to walk 2-3 miles on gravel and dirt trails, with some uphill. Beginners welcome! Reservations required. Limit: 8. For reservations and directions, contact the Leader: Claire Wolfe, 301-972-4278 or [c\\_wolfe2003@yahoo.com](mailto:c_wolfe2003@yahoo.com).

Thursday, September 6

**MEETING. Frederick.** Speakers: *Kevin Heffernan* and *Karen Darcy*. Program: "Birding South Florida and the Dry Tortugas." 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or [Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org](mailto:Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org).

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**■ Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 for more info.

**■ Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

Friday, September 7

**MEETING. Anne Arundel.** This welcome back meeting will include several interesting activities, including slide show presentations of birds and animals that Club members have seen on their travels plus a discussion and demonstration on bins, scopes, and other birding equipment, plus a kids' corner of activities, and a donation table of items for sale to raise funds for the Club. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. Contact Barbara Johnson at barbarajohnson222@gmail.com or 410-224-3339 if you would like to present a slide show or have questions concerning donations. Optional beginner's bird walk at 6:30 PM starting at the Arlington Echo Field House.

**■ Frederick.** First-Friday Trip. Leader and destination TBA. Meet at 8 AM at Culler Lake in Baker Park to join this half-day trip. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

Saturday, September 8

**■ Anne Arundel.** Half-day. Naval Academy Dairy Farm (Gambrills). The 865-acres farm offers farmland, fields, and treelines for bird habitat. We should see early fall migrants, especially sparrows. Meet at the farm's gravel lot at 7 AM. From MD 175, make the exit on to Dairy Ln. Leader: Dan Haas, nervousbirds@gmail.com.

**■ Baltimore.** Quarry Lake. This is a new walk we are introducing in what has proven to be a very "birdy" area. The

walk around the lake is about 2 miles on level, often paved, pathways with excellent views down (not up!) into the treetops surrounding Quarry Lake. Meet 8 AM at the benches where the 3 flags are flying on Quarry Lake Dr. Excellent food shops available for a snack/lunch after the walk, if interested. Leaders: Joany Hellman, 410-486-2719 or jehellman@comcast.net and Co-leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net.

**■ Howard.** Rockburn Branch Park. Meet 8 AM in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn ES. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. Leaders: Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.

**MOS BOARD MEETING.** 10 AM. Hosted by the **Allegany/Garrett** Bird Club, Rocky Gap SP. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net for add'l info.

Sunday, September 9

**PICNIC. Allegany/Garrett.** 1 PM at Carey Run Sanctuary. Please come out and meet and socialize with your fellow members. We will hold an informal meeting and a walk around the Blue Bird trail. The Club will provide a meat platter, and bottled water. Please bring a covered dish to share. Contact George and Barb Gaffney, gaff4109@hughes.net or Joe and Carol McDaniel, mcdanieljandc@gmail.com for more info.

**■ Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Crk. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

**■ Caroline.** Camp Todd Girl Scout Camp, 25012 Beauchamp Branch Rd. Meet at the camp's parking area near the ranger's home at 8 AM. Leader: Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com.

**■ Harford.** Perryville and North East

Community Parks. Take advantage of the two hot spots and meet leaders Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net and Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net at 7 AM at the P&R at MD Rtes 155 and I-95.

**■ Howard.** Middle Patuxent EA. Meet 7:30 AM at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Cir, Columbia. Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.

**■ Montgomery.** Upper Watts Branch Park. Half day. Migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and assorted woodland residents. Meet 8 AM at corner of Princeton Pl and Fordham St. Reservations required. Limit: 12. Leader: Paul O'Brien, 301-424-6491.

**■ Talbot.** Tilghman's Island in search of late local nesting species, plus early arriving south bound transient swallows, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Depart St. Michael's Village Shopping Center 7 AM.

Tuesday, September 11

**■ Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: John Landers, 410-426-3374 or dado1bw@aol.com.

**MEETING. Kent.** Program and speaker TBA. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**■ Montgomery.** Poplar Island Boat Trip. The trip is free but there is a limit on the number of seats. Reservations are ESSENTIAL and are on a first-come first-served basis. Limit: 18. Meet at

*Calendar continued from page 17*

8:45 AM on Tilghman I. Park in lot at end of Chicken Point Rd. We will be on the island for about four hours; the boat will return at 1 PM. Restrooms on the island. Suggest bringing lunch/drinks, snacks and bug spray. For reservations and questions, contact the leader: Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

**MEETING. Patuxent.** *Bruce Peterjohn* from PWRC will summarize our current knowledge of the status of hummingbirds across the mid-Atlantic region with an emphasis on wintering species. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-459-3375 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Thursday, September 13

**MEETING. Howard.** "Birding Beringia for a Month: The Far Side of Alaska," by *Jay Sheppard*, retired US FWS ornithologist. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

**Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. One-third day. Same great birds: migrant warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Meet at 7 AM at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, half-mile below the Nature Center). Note the earlier meeting time necessary to secure a parking spot. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, call the leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

**Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

**MEETING. Talbot.** 7 PM at Wm. Hill Manor 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton. Speaker and topic TBA.

Saturday, September 15

**Anne Arundel.** Pickering Creek. Half to all-day. Relatively flat, grass covered trails, but they can be muddy. Meet 7 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd. Leader: TBD

 Indicates Field Trip

(in the meantime, contact Kevin Smith at [ravens3077@yahoo.com](mailto:ravens3077@yahoo.com).

**Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309 or [bfposcov@verizon.net](mailto:bfposcov@verizon.net).

**Montgomery.** Snickers Gap, VA. Two-thirds day. Joint trip with ANS. Migrant songbird watching at 8 AM along nearby Appalachian Trail, migrant raptors possible starting at 9:30 AM. Meet place/time: 8 AM at commuter parking lot at VA Rtes 7 and 601 (9:30 AM meet time for raptors). Make reservation with leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams, 703-734-1238. Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, lunch, and rain/wind gear.

**FALL COUNT. Baltimore.** We will tally all birds seen within the City and County during this calendar day. Birders of all levels of experience are welcome and urged to participate. To avoid duplication of counting, contact compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or [jcdlmartin@aol.com](mailto:jcdlmartin@aol.com), for area assignment.

**FALL COUNT. Caroline.** Contact Debby Bennett at [dabennett1996@gmail.com](mailto:dabennett1996@gmail.com) to help out.

**FALL COUNT. Frederick.** Compiler: Michael Welch, 301-685-3561 or [manddwelch@comcast.net](mailto:manddwelch@comcast.net).

**FALL COUNT. Howard.** Compiler: Mike McClure, 410-531-2780 or [Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu](mailto:Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu). Please go to the following link to sign up. <http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>.

**FALL COUNT. Carroll.** Compiler: Don Jewell, 410-259-4716 or [jewelldg@gmail.com](mailto:jewelldg@gmail.com).

**FALL COUNT. Harford.** Compiler: Rick Cheicante, 410-803-2712, [rickcheicante@cs.com](mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com).

**FALL COUNT. Dorchester.** Compiler: Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120, [harryarmistead@hotmail.com](mailto:harryarmistead@hotmail.com).

**FALL COUNT. Washington.** Compiler: Doris Berger, 301-739-8907 or [dberger@md.net](mailto:dberger@md.net).

**Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

Sunday, September 16

**Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. First in a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration this season. Beginning Birders Welcome. The park has a variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods, and hillside forest. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Meet 8 AM. Directions: At the Willow Grove Farm Entrance, follow road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader: Maryanne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or [mfluke62@gmail.com](mailto:mfluke62@gmail.com).

**Harford.** Susquehanna SP. Visit a prime Harford Co birding spot. The various habitats found here attract a diverse variety of passerines, raptors, and waterfowl. Meet at 8 AM at the Rock Run Mill. Led by Les Eastman, 410-734-6969 or [les@birdtreks.com](mailto:les@birdtreks.com).

**Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. One-third day. Same great birds: migrant warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Meet at 6:45 AM at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, half-mile below the Nature Center). Note the earlier meeting time necessary to secure a parking spot. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, call the leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

**FALL COUNT. Allegany/Garrett.** Chuck Hager will be the compiler for the 22nd annual Fall Count. Contact Chuck at 301-689-5344 or [drhager@verizon.net](mailto:drhager@verizon.net) for area assignments.

**FALL COUNT. Anne Arundel.** Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate in this day-long activity. Contact Dave Gillum at 410-266-8775 or [dagmMapper@verizon.net](mailto:dagmMapper@verizon.net) to coordinate your counting location.

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**FALL COUNT. Kent.** Full day. Help us count birds in as much of Kent Co as possible in a single day; join a field party or cover your neighborhood anywhere in the county. Contact one of the leaders for more info. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**FALL COUNT. Calvert.** Compiler: Sherman Suter, 202-326-6523 or ssuter@aaas.org.

**FALL COUNT. Prince George's.** Compiler: Dave Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

**Talbot.** Tilghman's Island. Potential for 10-12 species of warbler, other possible migrants include both kinglets, several flycatcher species, vireos, grosbeaks, and we will search the bay for terns, gulls, and Brown Pelicans. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart St. Michael's Village Shopping Center 7 AM.

Tuesday, September 18

**Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Ron Davis, 410-821-1297 or 2athigh1@verizon.net.

Wednesday, September 19

**Howard.** Henryton Road, Patapsco Valley SP. Meet 8 AM at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end. Walk along the Patapsco River looking for fall migrants. Mature woodlands provide excellent habitat for migrant thrushes. This is prime migration time and many species of forest birds expected. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy trails areas. No facilities. Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net.

**MEETING. Montgomery.** "Birding Tour of Cuba." In March 2012, *Sally Wechsler* went on a 10-day birding tour of Cuba, during which the group saw most of Cuba's endemic species plus other birds, including several of "our"

wood warblers. She captured the actions and sounds of the experience on a handheld video camera. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at [urcioloa@sidwell.edu](mailto:urcioloa@sidwell.edu).

Thursday, September 20

**MEETING. Caroline.** Program: "Chesapeake Bay Foundation: New Bay Regulations and Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Efforts on the Eastern Shore." 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. Info: Debby Bennett, [dabennett1996@gmail.com](mailto:dabennett1996@gmail.com).

**Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 for more info.

**Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

Friday, September 21

**Harford.** Eden Mill Park. A bird-banding demonstration will be followed by a walk along Deer Creek to enjoy the bird-rich habitats of this area. Meet at the banding station on Eden Mill Rd at 8 AM. Info: Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or [mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net](mailto:mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net).

Saturday, September 22

**Anne Arundel.** Family Bird Walk, Glen Artney Area (for beginners and families). Discover the joy of bird watching with experienced leaders. Learn the basics of spotting and identifying birds with ears and eyes. Wear comfortable attire; bring water, snacks, and binoculars, if you have them. Meet 9 AM in the parking area at Lost Lake. Park has paved trails. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or [tryswim@comcast.net](mailto:tryswim@comcast.net).

**Anne Arundel.** Bacon Ridge (Crownsville). Our first trip to this extensive natural property, with many woodland species. Don't miss this

opportunity to visit a limited-access property of varied terrain and some unimproved trails. Meet 7 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva Rd and South Haven Rd. Leader: Dan Haas, [nervousbirds@gmail.com](mailto:nervousbirds@gmail.com).

**Baltimore.** Milford Mill Park. Fall migrant warblers, thrushes and other songbirds at this small tract of forest and streamside path. One-mile level paved walking loop. Puddles could cover parts of the path if it's rained recently. Meet 7:30 AM. Take Milford Mill Rd, turn right, and right again just after the overhead bridge into small parking lot. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or [pete\\_webb@juno.com](mailto:pete_webb@juno.com).

**Frederick.** Blue Mash. Birding trails take us through meadows and forest, past ponds with waterfowl and shorebirds. Call leader for meeting time and location. Leader: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

**Howard.** Hawk Watch at Meadowbrook. Meet 9:30 AM at hawk watch site on hilltop. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Harry will provide tips on separating species in flight. The park provides paved path for walking. Ponds and great sparrow habitat should provide other birding opportunities. Sun protection is recommended. Facilities available. Cancelled in inclement weather. Leader: Harry Fink, [harry@mdphelp.com](mailto:harry@mdphelp.com) or 410-446-4747.

**Montgomery.** Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay NA. Half day. Joint trip with ANS. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Meeting time/place: 6:30 AM at park entrance gate. Bring fee of \$5/person for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Limit: 15. For reservations, contact John Bjerke at 240-401-1643.

**Washington.** Blandy Farms and Sky Meadows SP. Join naturalist Margaret Wester for a walk at Blandy Experimental Farm and visit the Red-

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headed Woodpecker colony at nearby Sky Meadows SP. Trip departs promptly at 6:30 AM from the MVA parking lot in Hagerstown. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register and remember to pack a lunch for this all-day trip.

## Sunday, September 23

**Baltimore.** Broad-winged Hawks at Cromwell Valley Park. Jim Meyers will take us for a short walk along a stream-side path, then head up to hawk watch site for Broadwings and other raptors. Beginning birders welcome. Bring lunch if you'd like to stay all day. Meet 8 AM. Directions: at the Willow Grove Farm Entrance, follow road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader: Jim Meyers, 410-665-2440 or [jamesleomeyers@mac.com](mailto:jamesleomeyers@mac.com).

**Baltimore.** Chimney Swifts at dusk. Join the BBC Swift-Watch Team for "Swift Night Out" as Chimney Swifts pour into one of their favorite chimneys. This trip will meet 6:45 PM at the Home and Hospital Center, a new location on the edge of Robert E. Lee Park. We're expecting dozens or hundreds of swifts. Come a half hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Carol Schreter, 410-664-5151 or [C.Schreter@comcast.net](mailto:C.Schreter@comcast.net).

**Caroline.** Bird Banding observation in Chestertown with Jim Gruber, Bander. 8 AM. Great for kids. Adults welcome too. To register and for directions, contact Danny Poet at 410-827-8651 or [birder231@hotmail.com](mailto:birder231@hotmail.com).

**Howard.** Western RP. Meet 8 AM at Carr's Mill Rd lot. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Small pond may host shorebirds. Facilities available. Leader: Bonnie Ott, [bonnieott@verizon.net](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net) or 443-285-3302.

**Montgomery/Anne Arundel.** Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk. Half day. For folks who prefer a somewhat later start to their birding, we will meet at 9 AM at Violette's Lock parking lot, at the end of Violette's Lock Rd. We

will carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, landbird migrants, and probably a few first-show winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. For reservations, contact leader Jim Nelson at [kingfishers2@verizon.net](mailto:kingfishers2@verizon.net) or 301-530-6574.

**Talbot.** Taylor's Island. Good fall migrant trap for songbirds and usually a good flight of migrating hawks. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 7 AM. Breakfast/lunch at Taylor's Island Restaurant.

## Tuesday, September 25

**Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

**MEETING. Washington.** Meet at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown at 7 PM. Speaker: *Kate Weatherby*. Program: "Birding Viet Nam." Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 for info.

## Wednesday, September 26

**Harford.** Falling Branch Road. One of Harford's most pristine streams, Falling Branch, will be explored on foot with a view of the falls at the end. Expect lots of migrant songbirds and raptors. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or [dkirkw@verizon.net](mailto:dkirkw@verizon.net). Meet in the lower parking lot of The Eden Mill Nature Center at 7:30 AM.

## Thursday, September 27

**Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

## Friday to Sunday, September 28 to 30

**Frederick.** Cape May Weekend. Cape May can't be beat for fall migration. We will spend a fabulous weekend at this birding mecca. Contact leader: Kathy

Brown, 301-865-1369 for full trip details.

Saturday to Sunday, September 29 to 30

**Talbot.** Weekend trip to Kiptopeke. Meet at the hawk watch in Kiptopeke SP on Sat at 10:30 AM. Late Sep can be outstanding for early morning passerine movements as well as hawk flights during the day. Participants will also have the opportunity to observe the banding operation up close. For details on reservations, call trip leader/ coordinator Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742 with an assist credited to Harry Armistead. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot Sat. 6:30 AM. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, drinks, and snacks.

## Saturday, September 29

**Anne Arundel.** Broad Creek Park and Generals Highway Corridor Park (both near Parole P&R). At Broad Creek Park several trails weave through wooded, hilly terrain above a stream. Elevation changes about 100 ft. Corridor Park has several trails around ball fields and woods. Meet 7:30 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva Rd and South Haven Rd. Leader: Dave Gillum, 410-266-6775 or [dagmapper@verizon.net](mailto:dagmapper@verizon.net).

**Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet (8 AM) at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com) or 410-558-2473.

**Harford.** Harford Glen. The Glen offers varied habitat attractive to many avian species, especially at this migration time. Don't miss this prime season and location for some great bird-watching! Join leaders, Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or [birds@verizon.net](mailto:birds@verizon.net) and Ruth Bergstrom, [ruthb22@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthb22@yahoo.com) or 443-752-1967 at the lower parking lot at 7:30 AM.

**Kent.** Bombay Hook NWR. The salt marshes of DE Bay host large numbers of

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waterfowl, gulls, marshbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. All day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**Sunday, September 30**

**Baltimore.** Milford Mill Park. Fall migrant warblers, thrushes, and other songbirds at this small tract of forest and streamside path. One-mile level paved walking loop. Puddles could cover parts of the path if it's rained recently. Meet 7:30 AM. Take Milford Mill Rd, turn right, and right again just after the overhead bridge into small parking lot. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete\_webb@juno.com.

**Howard.** Fungi Search. Explore local parkland for a variety of fall fungi. Site TBD. May be cancelled if weather has been exceedingly dry. Contact Bob and Jo Solem at odenata@msn.com for meeting time and location.

**Tuesday, October 2**

**Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Paul Noell, 410-243-2652 or myconut@verizon.net.

**MEETING. Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "The 10 Most Important Things You can do for Birds and Bird Conservation," with *Paul Baicich*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete\_webb@juno.com.

**Wednesday, October 3**

**Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

 **Indicates Field Trip**

**MEETING. Cecil.** Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, [maryanne.dolan@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.dolan@gmail.com).

**Thursday, October 4**

**MEETING. Frederick.** *Dave Brinker* will tell us about "Project Owlnet." 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or [Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org](mailto:Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org).

**Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 for more info.

**Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

**Friday, October 5**

**MEETING. Anne Arundel.** "Birds and Conservation Issues Worldwide" by *Colin Rees*, President, AABC. Colin will take us on a world tour as birders, highlighting conservation issues at global levels and how they may be addressed at the local level. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

**Frederick.** First-Friday Trip. Leader and destination TBD. Meet at 8 AM at Culler Lake in Baker Park to join this half-day trip. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or [Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org](mailto:Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org).

**Saturday, October 6**

**Anne Arundel.** Lake Roland Park. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh, with waders, raptors, shorebirds, and passerines all possible. Meet 7 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva Rd and South Haven Rd. Leader: Pete Webb. Contact Kevin Smith at [ravens3077@yahoo.com](mailto:ravens3077@yahoo.com) for questions.

**Baltimore.** Quarry Lake. See Sep 8

listing. Leaders: Joany Hellman, 410-486-2719 or [jehellman@comcast.net](mailto:jehellman@comcast.net) and co-leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or [dterry12@verizon.net](mailto:dterry12@verizon.net).

**Caroline.** Tuckahoe SP. Leader: Danny Poet. Meet at the Caroline Co side of lake parking lot at 7:30 AM. Dress comfortably and bring binoculars if you have them. Questions, contact Danny Poet at 410-827-8651 or [birder231@hotmail.com](mailto:birder231@hotmail.com).

**Harford.** Elk Neck SP. Visit this woodland mecca at a time when hawks and warblers are active. Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or [birdsinmd@verizon.net](mailto:birdsinmd@verizon.net) will be leading this field trip. Meet at 7:30 AM at the P&R at Rtes 155 and I-95.

**Howard.** University of MD, College of Ag & Nat Res Open House and Bird Walk. 4240 Folly Quarter Rd, Ellicott City. Come to the Open House at the farm and learn how our Academic, Research and Extension programs benefit you. Members of the HBC will be present for field trips around the farm. 10 AM to 3 PM w/bird walks at 10:15 AM, 11:30 AM, and 12:45 PM. Leaders: Bonnie Ott, [bonnieott@verizon.net](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net) or 443-285-3302 and David Cummings, Russ Ruffing, Jo Solem, and Wes Earp.

**Montgomery/Frederick.** Lilypons Water Gardens. Half day. Target species include American Bittern, Nelson's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and a variety of raptors. Meet at Lilypons at 7:30 AM. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, contact the leader: Marcia Balestri at 301-473-5098.

**Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**YMOS.** Youth birding trip to Cape May for Hawkwatch. Contact George Radcliffe, [radclifg@gmail.com](mailto:radclifg@gmail.com) for details if interested.

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**■ Washington.** Washington Monument Hawk Watch. Meet at the monument around 9:30 AM for a morning of hawk watching. Call Doris Berger, 301-739-8907, for info.

Sunday, October 7

**■ Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. See Sep 16 listing. Leader: Maryanne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or mfluke62@gmail.com.

**■ Howard.** Mt. Pleasant Farm, Howard Co Conservancy. Meet 8 AM at parking lot. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Prime time for sparrows. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader: Scott Berglund, 410-750-2568 or Business250@yahoo.com.

**■ Montgomery.** Little Bennett RP. Half day. Everyone welcome, but we'll target new birders and focus on some birding basics. Join us for a slow-paced walk, listening for and observing common species. Late warblers and vireos, early sparrows, and some raptors possible. Limit: 8. For reservations, time, and meeting place, contact the leader: Gemma Radko at 301-514-2894.

**■ Talbot.** Wades Point, Claiborne. Species likely: late migrants and early winter arrivals. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader will meet group at 7:30 AM directly at the Claiborne Pier.

Monday, October 8

**■ Harford.** Waggoner's Gap. Take this Columbus Day trip to PA to explore Waggoner's Gap during the raptor-rich migration period. Meet leader Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net at 7 AM at Upper Crossroads, the intersection of Rtes 152 and 165 (near Basta Pasta).

**■ Howard.** Elkhorn Garden Plots. The plots are on the east side of Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. The Garden Plots offer excellent opportunities for unusual sparrows, migrant passerines,

and interesting late season butterflies. Meet 8:30 AM. No facilities. Leader: Jim Wilkinson, 410-381-9250.

Tuesday, October 9

**MEETING. Allegany/Garrett.** The speaker will be *Sara Rothamel* and the title will be "Territoriality and Habitat Composition of Cerulean Warbler Assemblages in Western Maryland." 7 PM at Compton Hall, Frostburg State U, Frostburg. For info contact Mary Huebner at [marybrd22@gmail.com](mailto:marybrd22@gmail.com) or check Western MD Birding website, <http://www.westernmdbirding.com> for updates.

**■ Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or [dterry12@verizon.net](mailto:dterry12@verizon.net).

**MEETING. Kent.** Program and speaker TBA. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison or Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or [rossgull@baybroadband.net](mailto:rossgull@baybroadband.net).

**MEETING. Patuxent.** Program TBD. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-459-3375 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Thursday, October 11

**MEETING. Howard.** "Howard County Bird Club's Spontaneous On-Line Butterfly Photo-Guide," by *Richard H. Smith*. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

**MEETING. Talbot.** 7 PM at Wm. Hill Manor 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton. Speaker: *Dr. Dave Curson*, Director of Bird Conservation for MD-DC Audubon. Dave will give a presentation on our Chesapeake Bay marshes and the future changes afoot in these systems due to sea level rise.

**■ Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at

the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

Saturday, October 13

**■ Allegany/Garrett.** Town Hill. Meet Ray Kiddo to watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity but also when we may have a better chance for some more interesting birds like Golden Eagles. Meet 9 AM at the Ali Ghan and Christie Rds P&R (off I-68, east of Cumberland). Bring lunch and a drink. Contact Ray at 301-729-1972 or [rrkiddo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:rrkiddo@atlanticbb.net) for info and to make a reservation.

**■ Baltimore.** Cape May Hawkwatch. All-day excursion. Bring lunch to spend day mostly at the hawk watch platform at Cape May observing hawks flying by, with possible view of uncommon seabirds out over the water. Optional walks around the impoundments for migrant waterfowl and shorebirds, and possibly a few late migrant songbirds in the trees. Meet 7 AM at Timonium P&R. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or [pete\\_webb@juno.com](mailto:pete_webb@juno.com).

**■ Frederick.** Meet at Fred Archibald Sanctuary, contact leader for time. Morning trip. Fall sparrows, migrants, and any number of surprises can occur at this lovely Frederick Co sanctuary. Leader: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

**■ Howard.** Lake Elkhorn. Meet 8 AM at Dockside Parking lot. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers are generally in abundance. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities. Leader: Allen Lewis, [allenrlewis@gmail.com](mailto:allenrlewis@gmail.com).

Sunday, October 14

**BIG SIT. Anne Arundel.** Fort Smallwood Park. A social gathering that typically ends by 5 PM when the final holdouts call it a day. Meet 7 AM at southeastern corner of the Ft. Smallwood Park, between the Chesapeake Bay and the pond. Bring a comfortable chair and snacks. Coordinator: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674 or [tabslab@aol.com](mailto:tabslab@aol.com).

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**■ Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

**BIG SIT. Cecil.** Turkey Pointers BIG SIT! Birding's Most Sedentary Event. Our BIG SIT! count circle will be based at the big Cedar Tree near the Lighthouse at Turkey Point. Chris Starling will be our official counter. Chris will start at 4:30 AM; you can come whenever you like and stay for as long as you like. It is not necessary to contact the leader before this event, just come on out any time during the day. Info: Chris Starling, cststar@email@gmail.com.

**BIG SIT. Kent.** Join us at the observation platform at Tubby Cove, Eastern Neck NWR, to help tally all the birds seen from this single location. Drop by any time from first light (when birds are most active) to mid-afternoon and stay as long as you'd like. Info: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**BIG SIT. Montgomery.** Join the Sitting Ducks at Black Hill RP starting at dawn and continuing until ? Come for the day or just a few hours. Meet at the dike across the road from the park boat ramp. For more info or directions, contact the leader: Chuck Parker at 240-446-8423 or chparker@access.k12.wv.us.

**■ Harford.** Cromwell Valley Park. Expect surprises during late fall migration at this Balt Co park. Meet at 7:30 AM at the P&R on Fallston Rd (Rte 152) just north of Harford Rd (Rte 147). Contact leader, Phil Powers at 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

**■ Howard.** Sparrow Big Day. Full day. Limit: 12. Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Going for 12 species! Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult

walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 410-461-3361 to sign up and get info.

**■ Talbot.** Black Walnut Point Hawk Watch. Various species of raptors pass this convergence point in the autumn. Harriers, accipiters, buteos, falcons, and eagles are reliably seen. Leader: Andrew Bullen, 410-763-8156. Depart St. Michaels Village Shopping Center at 9 AM. Or early birders seeking other migrants and shorebirds can depart St. Michaels at 7 AM or meet Andrew by 8:30 AM for later birding. Early birding leader is Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Late birding with Andrew Bullen, 410-763-8156.

Tuesday, October 16

**■ Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: TBA.

**■ Montgomery.** Montgomery County Sparrow Search. Meet 7 AM and bird until 10. Be prepared to walk in long, wet grass and in muddy areas. The meeting place will be determined by the leader at a later date. Likely sparrows: White-throated, Swamp, Song, maybe White-crowned. Possible more difficult species: Clay-colored and Nelson's Sparrows. Limit: 8. For info and reservations, call the leader: Dave Powell at 301-540-8776.

Wednesday, October 17

**MEETING. Montgomery.** "My 70 Years of Birding." This talk will illustrate *Don Messersmith*'s story from the 1940s to the present day. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at [urciolaa@sidwell.edu](mailto:urciolaa@sidwell.edu).

**■ Washington.** Audrey Carroll Sanctuary. Call Shirley at 301-241-3020, for meeting time and place for this ½ day trip to Audrey Carroll Sanctuary.

Thursday, October 18

**MEETING. Caroline.** Speaker and program: *Danny Poet*, "Attracting Birds with Water." 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Info: Debby Bennett, [dabennett1996@gmail.com](mailto:dabennett1996@gmail.com).

**■ Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 for more info.

**■ Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

Saturday, October 20

**■ Anne Arundel.** Family Bird Walk at Kinder Farm Park. See Sep 22 trip description. Meet 9 AM in the first parking area on the left just after the Park entrance. Park has paved, level trails. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or [tryswim@comcast.net](mailto:tryswim@comcast.net).

**■ Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Erin Lineberry, 443-742-9895.

**■ Baltimore.** Irvine Nature Center. With forest, field, and marsh this 116 acre site has an extensive trail system and is full of promises. Expect between 45 and 55 species with plenty of "little brown job" birds. Possible Red-headed Woodpecker and Lincoln's Sparrow. Meet at the center, contact leader for exact time. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or [pete\\_webb@juno.com](mailto:pete_webb@juno.com).

**■ Frederick.** Hawk Watch. There are several good ridges for the hawk migration, we will choose one that seems promising based on the weather. Contact the leader for meeting time and location. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

**■ Harford.** Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Crk woodland to enjoy the late fall avian spectacle. Gather at the ranger station

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parking area on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd at 7 AM. Co-leaders are Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mmagnani@peoplepc.com and Sue Procell, 410-676-6602 or procell1@comcast.net.

**Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

## Sunday, October 21

**Anne Arundel.** Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (PG Co). The Sanctuary is part of the Patuxent River Park system. Meet 9 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva Rd and South Haven Rd. Leader: Barbara Johnson, 410-224-3339 or [barbarajohnson222@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajohnson222@gmail.com).

**Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at the Vollmer Center parking lot (4915 Greenspring Ave) for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or [ilenel@juno.com](mailto:ilenel@juno.com).

**Howard.** West Friendship Park. Meet 8 AM at shopping center just west of Rtes 32 and 144. Will carpool to nearby park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. Leaders: Jeff Culler, [cullersfuls@hotmail.com](mailto:cullersfuls@hotmail.com) or 410-465-9006 and Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329 or [LBRoller@verizon.net](mailto:LBRoller@verizon.net).

**Kent.** Pickering Creek. We will search the fields and woods for songbird migrants including sparrows, late warblers, and blackbirds, and the ponds for waterfowl and late shorebirds. Full day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-

778-9568 or [rossgull@baybroadband.net](mailto:rossgull@baybroadband.net).

**Talbot.** Bombay Hook NWR. Expect to see ducks, shorebirds, late neo-tropical migrants, and early arriving sparrows. Leader: Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 AM. Bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

## Tuesday, October 23

**Baltimore.** Robert E. Lee Park (aka Lake Roland). See Sep 4 listing. Meet 8 AM. Visit BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) for more specific directions. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or [jafjsc@verizon.net](mailto:jafjsc@verizon.net).

**POTLUCK DINNER AND MEETING.** Washington. Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Meet at the Nature Center, Hagerstown for a potluck dinner starting at 6 PM. Bring a dish to share along with your own plate, drink, and utensils. Meeting begins at 7 PM. *Mark Abdy* will share his beautiful photography and enthusiasm for African wildlife with "Birding Botswana." Call Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454, for add'l info.

## Thursday, October 25

**Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Weekly fall bird walk on the battlefield or another nearby location. Meet 8 AM at the Antietam Battlefield Visitor's Center. Call Ann Mitchell at 240-420-0808 for info.

## Friday to Sunday, October 26 to 28

**Anne Arundel.** Kiptopeke/Fisherman's Island. We'll bird en route on the 26th, with lodge check-in at 3 PM. A nice lodge has been reserved that sleeps 15 people and is within walking distance to the hawk watch and mist nets/banding station. In addition, on the 27th a tour has been set up for Fisherman's Island, within the Eastern Shore NWR. We'll check out and return home on the 28th. Reservations are required! Meet 7:30 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd. Contact the leader, Peter Hanan, for questions and cost, 301-580-2785 or [peterhanan@verizon.net](mailto:peterhanan@verizon.net).

## Saturday, October 27

**Anne Arundel.** Greenbury Point.

Meet at 7 AM at Jonas Green Park for an early look up the Severn River and then proceed to Greenbury Pt. This is an excellent location to observe migrating shorebirds. The trails are flat and grass covered. Scopes are encouraged. Leader: Dan Haas, [nervousbirds@gmail.com](mailto:nervousbirds@gmail.com).

**Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House, just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com) or 410-558-2473.

**Harford.** Swan Harbor Farm Park. This Harford Co gem has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of bird life, including waterfowl, marsh specialties, raptors, and sparrows. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot adjacent to the Agricultural Education Center (near end of driveway). Co-leaders are Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or [gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com) and John Gallo.

**Patuxent.** Patuxent River (southern PG County area). Possible stops include Jug Bay, Merkle, Milltown Landing, and Aquasco Farms. Meet at the Bowie P&R, 7:15 AM. Itinerary may change depending on conditions. Contact David Mozurkewich at 301-459-3375 for add'l info.

## Sunday, October 28

**Montgomery.** Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. Limit: 16. Meet at 8 AM. Contact the leaders for reservations and more info. Co-leaders: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (h) or 240-375-4500 (m), and Ed Patten, 301-948-5648.

**Talbot.** Tilghman's Island. Island hopping passerines are still possible while in the prime hawk migration, coupled with Costa Rica bound Osprey,

*Calendar continued from page 24*

all surrounded by the landscapes golden with the fall Eastern Shore sun. Leader: Les Coble, 410-820-6165. Depart St. Michaels' Village Shopping Center Lot 7 AM.

Thursday, November 1

**MEETING. Frederick.** Members' Night. This will feature a variety of short presentations of photos, slides, and/or videos from our members. Who knows where it may take us! 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, or if you want to be on the agenda, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

**■ Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, November 2

**MEETING. Anne Arundel.** Speaker: *Greg Kearns*, Naturalist, Patuxent River Park, "The Natural History of Ospreys." 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

**DINNER MEETING. Harford.** It will be a dinner meeting starting at 6:15 PM with a business meeting to follow at 7 PM. Program TBD. Call 410-692-5905 for dinner reservations or for more info.

**■ Washington.** Lamb's Knoll. Visit Project OwlNet at Lamb's Knoll and observe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Meet at 9:15 PM at the Boonsboro P&R next to Thompson's Gas. Registration is limited. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to make reservations.

Saturday, November 3

**ANNUAL BANQUET. Allegany/Garrett.** Speakers: *Dave & Maureen Harvey*. Topic: Borneo (or Turkey). Gathering starts at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6 PM. The event is at the Frostburg

United Methodist Church. Please contact Charlotte Folk for dinner reservations at 301-689-6587 or mail your check to her at 179 Mt Pleasant St, Frostburg, MD 21532. The cost for the dinner is \$15.

**■ Harford.** Eden Mill Park. Walk the trails here to enjoy northern Harford Co's bird life along Deer Crk. Enjoy scenic woodlands and fields. Meet leader Susan Hood, 410-877-0574 or susanhhood@comcast.net at the Mill at 8 AM.

**■ Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, November 4

**■ Howard.** Centennial Park. Meet 8 AM West end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408.

**■ Montgomery.** Blackwater NWR. Full day (to dusk). Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit: 12. For meeting place, time, and reservations, contact the leader: Andy Martin at martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066 (cell).

**■ Talbot.** Wye Island. Good time for arriving sparrows, waterfowl, and other late fall migrants. We will also make a stop to honor the 290 year-old American Holly. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 7 AM or meet Danny at the Wye Island Bridge at 7:30 AM.

Wednesday, November 7

**■ Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor

Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

**MEETING.** Cecil. Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 10

**■ Harford.** PerrymanArea. Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net will lead an expedition driving to various locations in the Perryman area known to harbor interesting bird life from Horned Larks and pipits to waterfowl and shorebirds. Depart from the Aberdeen WalMart (Rte 40) at 7:30 AM.

**■ Howard.** Sharps at Waterford Farm. Meet 8 AM at farm parking area, through barns on right. Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads, and paths on this working farm. Port-a-pots available. Waterproof footware and clothing advisable in wet weather with one small stream crossing planned. Leader: Wes Earp, the\_earps@verizon.net or 410-531-3197.

Sunday, November 11

**■ Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Crk. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

**■ Howard.** Centennial Park. Meet 8 AM West end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

**■ Montgomery.** LBJs at Blue Mash Nature Trail. Blue Mash is hoppin' with Little Brown Jobs, making it a good place to work on the basics of sparrow ID. We'll look for similarities and differences among the common species,

## Calendar continued from page 25

like Song and Field and Chipping, while keeping an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Swamp. This trip is primarily for beginners, but all are welcome. Half day. For reservations, time, and directions, contact the leader: Lydia Schindler at 301-977-5252 or [lydiaschindler@verizon.net](mailto:lydiaschindler@verizon.net).

**T** Talbot. Pickering Creek. Good time for sparrows, waterfowl, and perhaps a lingering shorebird or two. With most of the leaves off the trees, searching for small arboreal dwellers will be easier. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 7 AM. Leader Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.

**Maryland/DC Records Committee  
Status Report  
as of July 20, 2012  
by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary**

The MD/DCRC has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in The Maryland Yellowthroat. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 139 and 142 through 145. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of Maryland Birdlife. New "state" species include Pink-footed Goose, White-tailed Kite and Green Violetear for Maryland. These additions bring the Official List of the Birds of Maryland total to 444 species. More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rindex.html>

**MD Records Accepted:**

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2003-297]  
Fruitland, Wicomico County  
04-Jul-1994

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2011-068]  
Point Lookout State Park, Scotland, Saint Mary's County  
16-Feb-2011 through 19-Feb-2011

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2011-162]  
Berwyn Heights, Prince George's County  
25-May-2011

Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* [MD/2012-010]  
Lisbon, Howard County  
20-Feb-2012 through 22-Feb-2012

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/1999-196]  
Chesapeake Farms, Chestertown, Kent County  
late Dec-1965

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2011-135]  
Fruitland, Wicomico County  
13-Oct-1986

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2000-014]  
Jesterville, Wicomico County  
06-Feb-2000 through 14-Feb-2000

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2005-144]  
Great Oak Pond, Great Oak, Kent County  
15-Oct-2005 through 16-Oct-2005

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2010-130]  
Great Oak Pond, Great Oak, Kent County  
19-Jan-2006

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2012-005]  
Chestertown, Kent County  
09-Jan-2012 through 18-Jan-2012

White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus* [MD/2010-039]  
Town Hill hawk watch, Town Hill, Allegany County  
26-Oct-1990

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2010-147]  
Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County  
18-Aug-2010

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2010-076]  
downtown, Newark, Worcester County  
29-May-2010

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2004-190]  
West Ocean City, Ocean City, Worcester County  
04-Dec-2004

Green Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus* [MD/2011-388]  
Elkton, Cecil County  
10-Oct-2011 through 12-Oct-2011

Green Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus* [MD/2011-393]  
Clarksville, Howard County  
24-Oct-2011 through 26-Oct-2011

Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna* [MD/2010-175]  
Middletown, Frederick County  
05-Nov-2010 through 09-Dec-2010

Calliope Hummingbird, *Stellula calliope* [MD/2011-394]  
Jasper Lane, Easton, Talbot County  
23-Oct-2011 through 16-Dec-2011

Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin* [MD/2011-404]  
Sharpsburg, Washington County  
~25-Oct-2011 through 11-Jan-2012

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*  
[MD/2011-407]  
Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Kingstown, Queen Anne's County  
09-Nov-2011

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*  
[MD/2011-425]  
Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Kingstown, Queen Anne's County  
30-Nov-2011

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2011-154]  
Eden Mill, Pylesville, Harford County  
03-May-2011

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2010-188]  
Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Easton, Talbot County  
29-Dec-2010 through 17-Jan-2011

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2011-412]  
Sedgwick Way, Hagerstown, Washington County  
25-Nov-2011 through 16-Jan-2012

Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii* [MD/2011-391]  
Turkey Point, Elkton, Cecil County  
17-Oct-2011

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**Records continued from page 26**

Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens* [MD/2011-409]  
Pemberton Drive, Salisbury, Wicomico County  
20-Nov-2011

Townsend's Warbler, *Setophaga townsendi* [MD/2011-382]  
Assateague, Berlin, Worcester County  
17-Sep-2011

Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2011-431]  
Denton, Caroline County  
21-Dec-2011 through 25-Dec-2011

Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus* [MD/2010-057]  
Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Prince George's County  
17-Jul-1947

Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus* [MD/1997-172]  
C&O Canal, Seneca, Montgomery County  
15-May-1966

Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii* [MD/2009-103]  
Rockburn area, Ellicott City, Ellicott City County  
09-May-2009

Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii* [MD/2009-106]  
Sycamore Landing, Seneca, Montgomery County  
24-Nov-2009

**MD Records ID OK?? Origin:**

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/1999-193]  
Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County  
25-Nov-1966 through 14-Dec-1966

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/1999-189]  
Street, Harford County  
24-Feb-1985 through 24-May-1985

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/1998-020]  
Jacksonville, Baltimore County  
19-Apr-1985

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2005-010]  
Trappe Station, Easton, Talbot County  
10-May-2004

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2005-001]  
Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Easton, Talbot County  
09-Jan-2005 through 12-Jan-2005

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2007-099]  
Great Oak Pond, Great Oak, Kent County  
30-Sep-2006

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2006-269]  
Grantsville, Garrett County  
01-Dec-2006 through 03-Dec-2006

European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris* [MD/2011-408]  
Old Bowie, Bowie, Prince George's County  
17-Nov-2011

**MD Records Not Accepted:**

Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis* [MD/2010-068]  
Potomac River, Oxon Hill, Prince George's County  
03-Dec-1968

Aechmophorus species, *Aechmophorus sp.* [MD/2010-186]  
Honga River, Crapo, Dorchester County  
28-Dec-1964

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2002-007]

Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County  
12-Jan-2002

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2007-060]

Lilypons Water Gardens, Buckeystown, Frederick County  
21-Apr-2007

Mottled Duck, *Anas fulvigula* [MD/2011-181]

Poplar Island, Tilghman, Talbot County  
29-Sep-2004 through 08-Oct-2004

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [MD/2010-037]

Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County  
10-Apr-2010

Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia* [MD/2010-155]

Blue Mash Nature Trail, Laytonsville, Montgomery County  
05-Sep-2010

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2010-157]

Spocott Farm, Cambridge, Dorchester County  
10-Sep-2010

Cave Swallow, *Petrochelidon fulva* [MD/2007-144]

Canal Woods Condominiums, Salisbury, Wicomico County  
16-Dec-2007

Hutton's Vireo, *Vireo huttoni* [MD/2011-392]

Columbia, Howard County  
15-Oct-2011

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2010-152]

Betterton, Kent County  
11-Jul-2010

**DC Records Accepted:**

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga* [DC/2008-108]

Georgetown  
16-Sep-2008

White Ibis, *Eudocimus albus* [DC/2011-371]

Kenilworth Park  
09-Sep-2011 through 24-Sep-2011

Red Knot, *Calidris canutus* [DC/2011-399]

Hains Point  
28-Sep-2011

**DC Records ID OK?? Origin:**

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [DC/1997-289]

National Arboretum  
17-Sep-1994 through 18-Sep-1994

**DC Records Not Accepted:**

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [DC/1999-190]

Anacostia River  
10-Nov-1956

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [DC/2010-021]

National Mall  
17-Mar-2010

Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus* [DC/2010-151]

Hains Point  
05-May-2010

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**MDBirding - A New  
Online Discussion Group**

On June 7th, after the demise of the much beloved MDOsprey, a few of us mourners sprang into action and established a new discussion group, titled “Maryland & DC Birding” (or “MDBirding” for short).

It will fill much of the same role as MDOsprey, in that it can be used to discuss a variety of topics related to both birds and birding in MD and DC. The new discussion group uses the Google Groups platform, which can function just like the familiar Listserv, but has a few additional perks as well.

Users can sign up with their existing e-mail address and send messages to the group either over e-mail, the web, or both. And by switching to Google Groups, we can now have an unlimited amount of participants, as well as posts with photo attachments when appropriate.

Behind the scenes, Google Groups has a few additional benefits, such as a built-in spam filter, which can help keep us all safe from e-mail attacks. To visit the group on the web, go to

**<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/mdbirding>**

The very first post at the top titled “Signing up and Posting Guidelines” has all of the information you need to get started. You’ll find both instructions on how to sign up and the list of best-posting guidelines.

Like any large online discussion arena, this group may occasionally need moderators to help keep discussions on topic. Fellow MD birders Bill Hubick and Nick Lund have generously volunteered to join me in helping maintain this role. We all hope that new members will consider signing up and joining the conversation.

Jared Fisher